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THE

MONTHLY GAZETTE OF HEALTH;

OR,

POPULAR MEDICAL, DIETETIC,

AND

General Philosophical Journal.

BY

RICHARD REECE, M. D.

OF LONDON,

AND SEVERAL EMINENT PHYSICIANS, SURGEONS, AND CHEMISTS, IN AMERICA, THE EAST AND WEST INDIES, AND ON THE CONTINENT OF EUROPE.

VOL. V.

FOR THE YEAR 1820.

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PREFACE

TO

THE FIFTH VOLUME.

ON concluding the Fifth Volume of this Work, the Editors have great satisfaction in expressing the sense they entertain of the Patronage it has received from the most respectable families and scientific characters in Europe and America. For the three first years of their labours, they had to contend with the opposition of nearly all their professional brethren in this kingdom, in consequence of their having dared to expose the trade of Regular Medicine, and the *medical* education and qualification of a certain set of Practitioners, who, in this metropolis, presume to denominate themselves *Regular* Physicians. Within the last two years, this spirit has been so rapidly declining, that, at this time, they can boast of the Patronage of the most eminent Physicians and Surgeons of the United Kingdom; and such has been the increasing demand for the Work, in consequence of the recommendation of the leading Lecturers on Medicine and Surgery in this metropolis, that the Editors have no hesitation in asserting, that the period is not far distant, when it will entirely supersede all the periodical works on Medicine in this metropolis. At this time, the extent of its circulation, and the high respectability of its Patrons, warrant them in declaring it to be the leading Medical Journal of Europe.

In return for these most flattering marks of public and professional favours, the Editors assure their Readers, that no exertion on their part shall be wanted, to render every succeeding Number more worthy the honour of their Patronage; and that no threats of prosecution from *any* quarter, or even conviction of having published a libel, when that libel was the

truth, shall deter them from unmasking every species of Quackery, or exposing Ignorance and Fraud, although under the specious protection of a *regular* diploma, His Majesty's Letter Patent, or, a Licence to vend and prepare Nostrums, within the jurisdiction of the Royal College of Physicians, or elsewhere.

Since the publication of their Fourth Volume, the Editors have undertaken to expose a system of Literary Quackery, or Book-making, which has greatly contributed to check the progress of Medical Science, and to bring the practice of Medicine into discredit with the part of the community capable of distinguishing fine-sounding words from sound reasoning and judgment. The Authors of such Works, which, unfortunately for credulous invalids, are but too numerous, are even more impudent than the Advertisers of universal remedies; and the facility with which a friendly Review may be obtained in some minor Journals, have hitherto enabled them to practise their impositions on ignorant invalids with impunity. By dint of advertising such Books with an extract from a puffing Review, Practitioners have been brought into notice, whose professional knowledge does not extend beyond technicalities. The object of such Writers is merely to advertise their names; and the little addition of a pithy extract from a friendly Review, has the effect of inducing the Readers to suppose, that the Authors really possess some superior knowledge of the diseases on which they treat. Some of those scribblers, the Editors have ascertained to belong to certain periodical works, and that they really wrote the Reviews of their own Books, which they have had the effrontery to quote in their public advertisements!!! By exposing this disreputable traffic, the Editors are aware they will bring against them another formidable set of scribblers; but the Augean Stable must be cleansed, and they are resolved to exert themselves to the utmost of their abilities, to accomplish that most desirable object.

The present Volume, the Editors flatter themselves, contains

much useful information. The Biographical Sketches of living Physicians cannot fail to prove instructive to young practitioners. They may be considered as so many *Indices* in the Medical World, directing them in the road which leads to honourable fame, and pointing out that which leads to dishonour. Those articles also emphatically acquaint their non-medical readers with the real state of Medicine, and enable them to distinguish the practitioners in whom they may place implicit confidence when afflicted with disease, from the mere trader in visits and fees. Among the discoveries of remedies of importance, may be noticed the virtues of Cubebs (Saturated Tincture of), in cases of Gleet, Muscular Debility of the Bladder, Fluor Albus, and the Indigestion of Elderly People. The salutary Effects of the Colchicum Seeds, in cases of Rheumatism, Gout, Asthma, Constitutional Cough, and Incipient Consumption, by Dr. Williams, and others; and of the carbonate of iron in Tic Doloureux, by Mr. Hutchinson, are discoveries equal to any that have been made in this department of Medicine since the period of Hippocrates. The Prussic Acid, as a direct sedative, is also a valuable remedy in cases of Inflammatory Excitement. Of the original Communications, the Editors have great pleasure in referring their new Subscribers to the very valuable Contributions of Surgeon Walker, of Oxford, on the Practice of Medicine, which are creditable to him as a man of science and a Christian. The Communications on Indigestion, by Chiro-Medicus; on the beneficial Effects of Galvanism, by Mr. La Beaume, in Cases of Torpidity of the Liver, Stomach, and Intestines, will also be found highly interesting,

The Editors request their Readers will bear in mind that this Work embraces a variety of subjects, besides those connected with Medicine, as Agriculture, Diet, Domestic Economy, Veterinary Medicine, &c. &c.; and that communications on any of them will at all times be very acceptable.

170, *Piccadilly*,
December 28, 1820.

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GAZETTE OF HEALTH.

No. 49. To JANUARY 1, 1820. Vol. V.

Of Dr. BIRKBECK.

This gentleman is a native of Settle, in Yorkshire. After having completed a country school education, he selected medicine for his future study. His father accordingly sent him to Edinburgh to cultivate a knowledge of the art. During his residence at this university, we do not find that he signalized himself either by that ardour with which youth generally prosecutes a *favourite* study, or by taking a prominent part in the discussion of the medical and other philosophical subjects that were brought before the societies of which he was a member. Having resided the usual period, and attended the customary number of courses of lectures on medicine, he became a candidate for a medical diploma. In the Thesis, which he wrote on this occasion, he displayed no extraordinary talents, in speculative theories or the sublime vagaries of imagination, in which candidates for so distinguished an honour are too apt to indulge as marks of extraordinary genius. He, however, displayed that in which the beauty of his native tongue resides, viz. simplicity. Our correspondent in Edinburgh says, that this production was free from dogmatisms and obstruse reasoning; but so little noise did it make in the university, that he could not obtain any information of the subject; but from its effects on the examiners, he supposes that it was a *practical* dissertation on some soporific production, or *practical* illustration of the *modus operandi* of opium. Having obtained a diploma, the doctor and his friends were satisfied that his professional qualifications had been rigorously tested. To fix on a proper field for the young doctor to exercise his talents for the benefit of suffering humanity, was the next consideration. Being a member of the sect of Christians denominated Quakers, and his father having many friends in London, it was agreed, that in the metropolis his abilities would be duly appreciated. The doctor accordingly started for this grand scene of action. The reception he met with, from his father's connection, was very flattering; but, alas! when his friends required medical aid, they were so uncourteous as to have recourse to the professional advice of physicians, whose abilities had been put to the test of experience, and who had proved themselves to be worthy of their implicit confidence; and, what was still of some little consequence, were acquainted with the peculiarities of their constitutions. Some, indeed, ventured to say, that it was all very well to *hear* lectures, but that *experience* was still necessary to complete the physician. The blunt manner in which this sect communicate their sentiments—the result of honest feelings and purity of intention—is not calculated to keep up a fallacious hope of success in the mind of a sanguine practitioner;—

besides, the small talk, effeminate manners, and the fawning physical visage which are necessary to insure *general* practice, are not regarded by this sect as proofs of strength of intellects, or of professional acquirements. The doctor soon learnt, that in order to arrive to the climax of reputation and practice, to which he supposed his professional abilities entitled him, something must be done on his own part. Unless he could become "the talk of the day," his abilities would be lost to society. The doctor, after due deliberation, no doubt, boldly embarked in the modest undertaking of conducting a Medical Review. Medical literature had degenerated to a disgraceful degree. He was to draw a line of demarcation between scientific medicine and the literary quackery of the day. In this praiseworthy undertaking, he had the good fortune to obtain the assistance of Mr. Travers, who was to prune surgery of its exuberant or barren branches. They entered the field properly armed with two-edged pruning hooks. In future, men of merit alone were to reap the golden harvest. The doctor, although only a permissive of the college, *i. e.* permitted to practise medicine in simple cases of disease, boldly attacked the works of the Fellows of the college. He violently exclaimed against encroachments on the province of physicians, by surgeons; and as to the application made to the legislature for authority to make a moderate charge for attendance on the sick, instead of being under the necessity of remunerating themselves by sending an extra quantity of medicine to their patients. "Remunerate them?—could any thing be more impudent, or more preposterous? It might, in course of time, exclude physicians from the field entirely!! It was accordingly condemned as dangerous quackery; and those who wrote on the justness of the application, and the benefit that would thereby result to the public, should be hooted out of the metropolis, mounted on an ass, with his face towards the tail. One apothecary, whose work had been severely *criticised*, or, as the Americans say, *sophristrised*, presumed to ask the learned critic in what respect physicians in general, and himself in particular, were superior to the surgeon-apothecaries of the day as medical practitioners? He even ventured to tell this great critic, that it was incumbent on him to inform the public on what grounds he claimed a fee of one guinea for a visit, when he asserted that apothecaries were not entitled to five shillings! The doctor declining to make a pointed reply, the apothecary threw the gauntlet, and dared him to take it up. The contest he declined as derogatory to the dignity of a physician, and probably so it would have proved. His coadjutor modestly attacked the works of Mr. C. Bell, who had presumed to take up his residence in London. Their reason was profoundly sophistical, but so miserably critical, that even in the minds of the authors of the works, it excited no other feelings than contempt. The declamatory ravings did not please the old subscribers to the work. It was in fact so destitute of any thing like argument, genuine irony, or wit, that it soon sunk a victim to stupidity and impudence. The work, entitled The London Medical Review, had been previously edited by Dr. Clutterbuck, whose criticisms were scientific and gentlemanly, and highly esteemed by

competent judges of their merit. The lamented death of Dr. Lettsome, many supposed would make a good opening for the introduction of Dr. Birkbeck, but we do not find that his practice has been extended by that event. The deservedly high reputation of Dr. Babbington and Dr. Farre, is an insurmountable barrier to that climax to which the Reviewers flattered themselves they should speedily arrive.

Dr. Birkberck, some years ago, obtained the appointment of physician to the Aldersgate Dispensary, the duties of which he has discharged to the best of his abilities. Although the doctor supposed himself to be qualified to decide the merits of medical works ten years ago, he has not ventured to appear in the literary world as an author; and we are not aware that he has made any communication to the periodical Medical Journals. His prescriptions are so very scarce, that notwithstanding we have applied to the principal apothecaries in the sphere of his practice, we have not succeeded in getting a sight of one.

We shall conclude this article with what we consider an appropriate motto:

"Spectavis et tu spectaberis."

PROMOTION OF MEDICAL SCIENCE.—Some practitioners imagine that more real service would be rendered to medicine by a full illustration of what is already known on the subject, than by any further attempt to promulgate new theories or new modes of practice. Impressed with the justice of this opinion, Dr. Cooke, a Fellow of the London College of Physicians, and late Physician to the London Hospital, has apparently taken considerable pains in collecting and arranging, in plain, clear language, a variety of observations from the best authors, both antient and modern, relative to the principal diseases of the nervous system. The doctor observes, if the example he has set should be followed by others, a system of medicine would be formed, which might prove eminently useful, by lessening the labours of the student, and by affording practical facilities to persons actually engaged in the duties of the profession. In commencing this undertaking, the doctor has adopted the most arduous part, viz. the functions, &c. of the brain and nervous system. In its execution, he has been solicitous to obtain from the most distinguished professional characters of the present day, (with whom he is, of course, from his high rank in the medical world, on terms of intimacy) such information respecting their opinions of the nature and method of cure of the diseases which he has noticed in his work, as would enable him to render his account of them more complete; but in this, he confesses, that he has not succeeded to the extent of his wishes or expectations. For the Second Volume, which will comprise the nature, &c. of Palsy and Epilepsy, he has well-grounded reason to hope a more general assistance from his friends. The undertaking of the work is most praiseworthy; and of all the physicians of this metropolis, or indeed of Europe, we know of none more competent to the task than Dr. Cooke; but with respect to the result, even if it be as ably followed up by others, as commenced by the doctor, we entertain great

doubts of their being such as the author anticipates. Many of the theories, which have been promulgated by the antient and modern writers, will admit of beautiful elucidations, which in practice have proved deficient in the main point, viz. the *cure* of disease. The Brunonian system in theory was particularly fascinating to students and inexperienced physicians, but in practice it proved very destructive, more lives having been terminated by it, than by any epidemic that has appeared in the world since its promulgation. Instead of elucidating the opinions of the writers on pathology, or on what is generally considered the province of the physician, the only light we would throw on their works, should be the light of a fire. We would commit them all to the flames, and with them the charter of the Royal College of Physicians of London, inasmuch as it has tended more than any thing else to check the progress of medicine, by excluding those from the practice of the metropolis, who received their education in the only proper schools of medicine, viz. the hospitals, dissection rooms, &c. With respect to "medicine proper," we beg to ask Dr. Cooke, what progress it has really made since the time of Hippocrates? Now if the system of that great man was generally adopted, without the smallest deviation from his modes of treating the diseases that occur among us, would the bills of mortality be increased or diminished? The results, we have no hesitation in saying, would not be less disreputable to physicians, than their present practice. Of late years, surgery has taken rank in the scientific world, and if "medicine proper," (the immediate province of the physician), has received any light, it is solely indebted to surgery for it. Surgery is no longer confined to manual operations, it comprehends an extensive pathology. Surgery is in fact a science, whilst "medicine proper" is a pitiful conjectural art, a mere hit or miss practice. Instead therefore of attempting to illumine so dark a subject, to which we cannot even apply the hemistich, "*Lateat scintillula forsan*," we would advise Dr. Cooke to exert his abilities in laying a solid foundation for a system of medicine. That basis is to be found in anatomy, physiology, surgery, and chemistry, even in their present state. If he were cordially to join Mr. Abernethy in this most praiseworthy attempt, the result would be creditable to them as philosophers, and most highly beneficial to mankind.

The mystery in which all diseases are more or less involved would be removed, the treatment simplified, and the nomenclature of diseases and remedies would be rendered more scientific, as well as the nosological arrangements. Such a system would ensure the confidence of the public, and for ever put an end to that disgraceful traffic of tampering with the lives of man, for the sake of lucre, viz. regular and irregular quackery. The progress constitutional surgery has made, and is still making, should excite a spirit of emulation in the College of Physicians; for if they remain stationary, they will find that they will become a dead letter; for the enlightened part of the community already begin to suppose, that the practitioner, who is best acquainted with the structure and chemistry of the body, the offices of the various organs, the proper-

ties of medicines, &c. &c., must be more competent to the management of disease, than the physician who can boast only of being acquainted with the *writings* of the antients and moderns. To the management of such a man, a patient may indeed cheerfully resign himself. We select the following observations from Dr. Cooke's work, as a fair specimen of the manner in which it is executed, and as likely to prove interesting to our readers.

After giving a sketch of the opinions of the antients and moderns, respecting the nature and use of the nervous system, the doctor observes, "it appears, that notwithstanding the laborious investigations of the subject by philosophers in various ages of the world, the physiology of the nervous system, as to many particulars, remains involved in impenetrable obscurity.

"The sensible qualities of the organs of the nervous system, the form, size, colour, relative situation, protuberances, cavities, and division of parts of the various substances contained within the cranium and spine, have been accurately described; but no satisfactory explanation has been given of their intimate nature, and of the manner in which they immediately act in producing sensation and motion. The most minute examination of the brain and nerves has thrown no light on this mystery. That the perceiving, intelligent, willing principle in man, is in some way connected with the brain, seems highly probable; and that sensation and motion depend upon the brain and nerves, can be proved by experiment. By these organs we have knowledge of the external world, and communication with it. By the brain and nerves, the volitions of the mind influence the muscles in voluntary motion, and by the nerves, impressions made on the sentient extremities are carried to the brain, and sensation is produced; but of the manner in which this is done, and of the connection between the mind and the nervous system, and their influence on each other, we are wholly ignorant. Whatever may be our conjectures respecting the nature and seat of the intelligent principle; of the ultimate structure of the brain and nerves; of the nature of the medium of nervous communication; or of the mode of perception, directly, or by the intervention of images in the brain; we are utterly at a loss to form any rational conception, concerning the manner in which the mind acts, and is acted upon in sensation and motion.

"We cannot take a single step, says M. Voltaire, towards arriving at the slightest knowledge of the cause of life and thought. These questions appear sublime: what are they? The questions of the blind, who ask of others equally blind, what is light?

"'The influence of the will over the body,' says Mr. Stewart, 'is a mystery which has never yet been unfolded;' and this acute metaphysician acknowledges, that the statement of Dr. Reid, in which he agrees, amounts merely to this; 'that the mind is so formed, that certain impressions produced on our organs of sense, by external objects, are followed by corresponding sensations, and that these sensations, which have no more resemblance to the qualities of matter, than the words of a language have to the things they denote, are followed by a perception of the existence and

qualities of the bodies, by which the impressions are made; that all the steps of this process are equally incomprehensible; and that for any thing we can prove to the contrary, the connection between the sensation and the perception, as well as that between the impression and the sensation, may be both arbitrary; that it is therefore by no means impossible, that our sensations may be merely the occasions on which the correspondent conceptions are excited, and that at any rate the consideration of these sensations which are attributes of mind, can throw no light on the manner in which we acquire our knowledge of the existence and qualities of body. From this view of the subject it follows, that it is the external objects themselves, and not any species or images of these objects that the mind perceives; and that, although by the constitution of our nature, certain sensations are rendered the constant antecedents of our perceptions, yet it is just as difficult to explain how our perceptions are obtained by their means, as it would be, upon the supposition that the mind were all at once inspired with them, without any concomitant sensations whatever.

"Physiologists have often erred by paying more attention to the investigation of the nature of the subjects of their enquiries, than to that of the laws by which they are governed. Of the *ultimate nature or essence*, either of mind or matter, or of that compound which we call the nervous system, we know nothing; but of the laws by which it is governed, or rather the circumstances by which it is influenced, we know enough to enable us, in some degree at least, to understand the nature and causes, and to explain the phenomena of many of its morbid affections."

LOCKED JAW.—In our 35th Number, we have given the opinion of Dr. Reid, (an eminent physician of Dublin) respecting the seat and treatment of this formidable disease. Surgeon Sutliffe, of London, in a late communication on this subject, observes, that the affection of the muscles of the back, drawing the body violently backwards (opisthotonas) confirms the truth of Dr. Reid's opinion. The late Dr. Saunders having remarked, in the presence of Mr. Sutliffe, in consequence of a case of this disease having terminated fatally under his care in Guy's Hospital, that he would prescribe a bath of a solution of opium in a similar case; "This decision," says Mr. Sutliffe, "has never been obliterated from my mind." A short time since, Mrs. J. of Bartholomew Close, after a severe rigor, was attacked with a spasmodic convulsion about the forepart of the region of the chest, (præcordia) threatening suffocation. On inquiry, Mr. Sutliffe discovered that the symptoms had their origin from an injured toe, whence the lymphatic vessels were inflamed up the leg. Being satisfied that he had ascertained the cause of her sufferings, he says, "I commenced with two drachms of tincture of opium, and as soon as an interval would admit, ordered it to be repeated at the expiration of fifteen or twenty minutes." "However," continues Mr. S., "the beneficial effects were obviously decided, that a few hours elapsed before it was repeated, which was then necessary from a return of the paroxysm, which was however much less violent." Mr. S. considered the

danger not over until the fifth day, when the tincture of opium was discontinued. The patient took nearly three ounces of tincture of opium on this occasion. This case the editors of the London Medical Journal have introduced in their last number as "*A case of Tetanus, cured by opium.*"

Few practitioners of observation and experience will agree with them in the opinion that it was of that nature. The affection of the chest was evidently sympathetic of the lymphatic inflammation of the extremity. The spasms in the chest, and of the diaphragm, subsequent to rigors, attendant on lymphatic inflammation, are by no means uncommon. The patient and her friends suppose that she had a very narrow escape from the grasp of the grim tyrant, and so think we. The quarter of an ounce of tincture of opium, if the patient had not been accustomed to its use, was certainly a bold dose to commence the attack. We insert the case, as affording some evidence of the beneficial effects of opium in lymphatic inflammation, and in allaying the inflammatory excitement, or spasmodic affections of nerves and muscles, which so frequently attend it.

HYDROPHOBIA.—Dr. Mease, of Philadelphia, in treating on the prevention of this disease, states, "In preference to caustics, I have always advised the plan first suggested by the late Dr. Haygarth, of Chester, in England;—viz. the long-continued stream of water, on the wounded part, from the mouth of a tea kettle; a powerful argument in favour of which, is, that as the poison exists in a watery form, water must be its most proper solvent. I have also advised the wound to be kept open some time, as an additional security. If the wound be small, it ought to be dilated." He urges surgeons to bear in mind the judicious advice of Mr. Gillman, viz. "If the knife should enter the wound inflicted by the teeth of the dog, to recommence the operation with a *clean* knife; for if the operation be continued with the contaminated knife, it will probably prove unavailing, by the sound parts being inoculated with the canine virus. To inattention to this important advice, may be attributed the failure of the complete extirpation of the wounded part, in preventing hydrophobia. The once famous preventive medicine of Mr. Crous, of New York, for the receipt of which the American Government gave a large sum, Dr. Mease says, was composed of "the powder of a dog's jaw-bone burnt, the powder of the false tongue of a newly foaled calf, the verdigris from the copper coin of George II., and the plant called the skull-cap"!! Ridiculous as this recipe is, Dr. M. asserts, that on the preventive powers of the composition, many people in America place the most implicit confidence. With respect to the preventive powers of the marsh or watery plantain, which has been so highly extolled by many eminent physicians in Russia as infallible, Dr. Mease observes, "that upon this nor any other supposed preventive, would I rely to the exclusion of the treatment, by a stream of water, &c., they being all liable to the same objection I have urged against the supposed infallibility of constitutional preventives in general."

STONE IN THE BLADDER.—Mr. Baldy, Surgeon to the Storehouse Dispensary, Plymouth-Docks, has lately published a

case of stone extracted from a human bladder, the nucleus of which was a common pin, an inch and a quarter in length. The patient, whose name is Mountjoy, a mason by trade, was not conscious of having swallowed a pin, or that one had entered any part of the body.

SCROFULOUS ABSCESS.—This kind of abscess is generally slow in its progress, and very little under the control of topical applications, and much less under constitutional treatment; and it often happens, that the patient suffers a protracted illness before the matter is properly discharged; and when deep seated, it often escapes into the cellular substance, running the course of the contiguous muscles, producing extensive lesion, and much constitutional mischief. In the management of this disease, Mr. Bush, an eminent surgeon of Frome, has adopted a plan to expedite the discharge of the matter, which he states "has been attended with a success beyond his most sanguine expectations." Having nothing new to offer on the preceding inflammation, he takes up the subject where matter is evidently formed, and its discharge is necessary. One very striking advantage to be derived from the application of this measure, he suggests, is the discharge of the matter from the most depending part of the abscess. The two following cases Mr. Bush has published, to illustrate the advantages of his new mode of treatment.

"*Case* 1.—Mr. D. aged 24 years, was, after violent exercise, in the heat of July, 1818, attacked with shivering, succeeded by deep-seated pain in the lumbar region. Leeches, general bleeding, and the usual methods of subduing local inflammation, were tried, without success. Matter formed; and it was invited to the surface by poultices of various kinds for some weeks, to but little purpose. In this state of the case, I thought, by taking off the atmospheric pressure from the most depending part of the tumor, I might produce some excitement in the parts, and effect an early discharge: for that purpose I applied a very small cupping-glass, and allowed it to remain on for an hour; it produced a little pain only. It was repeated in the evening; and for four successive days it was continued in a similar way. The removal of the glass was succeeded by a warm poultice. By these means, in five days, I effected a discharge from the most convenient part of the abscess, which might not have been produced, under the ordinary means of treatment, in as many weeks.

"*Case* 2.—A young friend of mine was attacked with inflammation in the groin, which went on to suppuration: it was not attended with pain; and, after several weeks, there was no prospect of an opening being effected by the powers of nature. He was adverse to its being opened by the lancet; and, indeed, the indurated state of the parts rendered it improper in this stage of the case: a small cupping-glass was therefore applied daily for three or four days, and the parts covered with a poultice after its removal. The discharge of the matter was thus effected, and the parts healed in a very short time."

These cases, Mr. Bush observes, were evidently scrofulous. In

abscesses from active inflammation, the rapid progress of suppuration in general renders the plan unnecessary; indeed, in such cases, it might prove injurious by increasing irritation.

PALSY.—The favourable reports of the beneficial effects of the vomic nut in palsy, in the foreign and domestic medical journals, have induced Surgeon Gaitskell, of Rotherhithe, to give it a trial.

The first case was a captain of a ship, about sixty years of age, of a stout make, and plethoric temperament. He was attacked suddenly with apoplexy, which was followed by palsy of the left side of his body. By the timely employment of general and topical bleeding, a cold lotion to the scalp (shaved), aided by purging, and spare diet, in about three months recovered his speech, though imperfectly. At the same time he shewed signs of returning sensation and motion to the paralysed side: stimulants, such as blisters, friction, and electricity, were applied, with passive motion of the limbs in imitation of their natural actions, but without any evident advantage. In fact, at the end of twelve months, he was unable to dress himself, or walk more than half-a-mile with assistance. In this state, a trial was made of the vomic nut, in the dose of two grains night and morning in the form of coarse powder, combined with ten grains of compound powder of gum tragacanth. The vomic nut was gradually increased to seven grains, when it affected the head with pain and watchfulness, and severe shooting pains in the arm and leg, affected with pricking sensations in the extremities of the toes and fingers, similar to that of needle points. The pain was so violent in the cutaneous nerves, that the patient could not bear the slightest touch of the integuments without crying out. The same dose was ordered to be continued for a fortnight, when the pains in the limbs were so severe, and the head so confused, that the use of the remedy was discontinued. To aid the action of this medicine he was ordered to make voluntary efforts, that is, to endeavour to exercise his will over the muscles of the affected limbs, which had a surprising effect. By repeated attempts of this kind, he gradually recovered the feeling and motion of the affected arm and leg; so that in a few weeks he was enabled to walk four miles a day, and put his clothes off and on without assistance. The captain is now so recovered, that he has ventured to take the command of a vessel.

Mr. Gaitskell has since made a trial of the vomic nut in another case of palsy, the sequel of apoplexy—The patient was a female of seventy-six years of age. After premising a depleting and antiphlogistic treatment to remove the cause of the apoplectic attack, Mr. Gaitskell administered the vomic nut in gradually augmented doses, and with nearly the same happy result as in the preceding case. For the information of our non-medical readers, we have made some observations on the poisonous quality of the vomic nut in the Fifteenth Number.

DYSENTERY.—The late Doctor Grant, of Virginia, for nearly half a century, maintained an unrivalled reputation in the management of this disease. His practice, Dr. Chapman, Professor of the institutes and practice of physic in the university of Pennsylvania,

says, consisted in little more than a free exhibition of a decoction of the inner bark of the red elm, after the use of an aperient medicine. By this treatment, bloody motions, griping pains, tenesmus, &c., were speedily removed. In chronic dysentery and diarrhœa, attendant on organic disease of the intestinal canal, the decoction of the interior bark of the elm, and of the Iceland moss, were favourite remedies with the late Doctor Cheston of Gloucester.

GASTROTOMY.—It appears by the Eighth Number of the Bulletin of the Faculty of Medicine of Paris, that this operation, which consists in making an incision into the stomach, has been successfully performed by Dr. Cayroche of *Mendes*. The subject, a female aged twenty-four, was of a robust habit: on the fourteenth of last September, experiencing a slight nausea at the stomach, she introduced the handle of a silver fork into the upper part of the gullet, to excite vomiting. The fork escaped from her hand, and descended into the stomach. In this situation it remained three months, without causing any other inconvenience than a sense of weight. At length violent pain coming on, attended with vomiting, and an external tumefaction, her physician deemed it advisable to consult several eminent surgeons respecting the propriety of removing the fork, by a surgical operation. This measure being unanimously recommended, Dr. Cayroche was solicited to put it in execution. The loss of blood during the operation was so inconsiderable, that it was deemed prudent to take eight ounces from a vein, after its completion, to prevent inflammation. The fork adhering partially to the stomach, the use of the knife was necessary to detach it. It was covered with a black crust, which was with difficulty removed. It does not appear that the gastric juice had diminished its size, or the action of the stomach altered its shape. The wound united on the first intention, and the patient was in a few days perfectly recovered.

TYPHUS.—The following valuable observations on the treatment of this fever, addressed to Dr. Uwins, are from the pen of Mr. Collingwood, a scientific surgeon of Sunderland.—"During the autumn and winter of 1818-19, typhus fever prevailed much in Sunderland and its vicinity. To show satisfactorily to what causes its late prevalence is to be attributed, would require a more ample investigation than I at present intend to enter upon; I may, however, observe, that the most obvious seemed to be the occasional residence of itinerant paupers, from various parts of the kingdom, where disease was prevalent—a want of proper nourishment, and a want of attention to cleanliness and ventilation, amongst the resident poor. So far as I have been able to discover, the disease was first introduced into Bishopswearmouth poor-house, by a mendicant boy, brought thither with evident symptoms of typhus; having been previously exposed to the inclemencies of the weather, in the month of February, 1817, and having suffered the privations of hunger and insufficient clothing. As soon as existence of contagion in the poor-house was known to me, I took every precaution in my power to prevent its dissemination, by ordering the patient to be removed to a separate apartment; the ward to be fumigated and

white-washed; and strict attention to be paid to cleanliness and ventilation: but my exertions were not completely successful, as one or two of the inmates caught the disease; and it occasionally recurred in the town and neighbourhood (in a mild form) till autumn, 1818, when it broke out with great violence, and continued spreading till March, 1819, after which it considerably decreased, and before Midsummer wholly disappeared; a few mild cases only occurring now and then, as at any other healthy period. The disease was usually ushered in with the following symptoms: — Frequent rigors followed by accession of heat; flushing of the face; severe pains in the head, back, and limbs; hot and dry skin; great thirst; tongue rather foul, afterwards covered with a brown fur; loss of appetite, nausea, and sometimes vomiting; bowels constipated, (in some few instances diarrhœa was present); pulse varying in fulness and in frequency from 95 to 130; these, together with the minor symptoms generally attendant on fever, (but variably modified) constituted this epidemic. When first called to visit a patient labouring under this disease, as I found constipation generally an attendant symptom, I usually ordered from an ounce to an ounce and a half of the Epsom salt, dissolved in four ounces of mint water, to be taken at two doses, within the hour; and after its operation by stool, the patient almost invariably found the pain in the head, heat of the skin, and other distressing symptoms, much alleviated. I repeated the purgative once, and sometimes twice a day, when severe pain in the head, and high delirium, with flushing of the face, were present; nor did I desist *from their* occasional exhibition until the pulse was reduced below 100, the stool (which were at first dark-coloured, and highly offensive) became natural, and the patient experienced, instead of pain, a peculiar sense of lightness of the head. The symptoms of apparent debility, which are usually so conspicuous in fever, and not unfrequently deter the practitioner from the exhibition of even gentle laxatives, did not prevent me from following up the frequent use of purgatives, as I have always found them rather to increase the patient's strength, than to induce debility. After the exhibition of the purgatives, I generally ordered the head to be kept cool, by the frequent applications of cloths, wrung out of cold water, or cold water and vinegar; and in more severe cases, I also ordered the cold affusion towards the evening, when the fever was most violent, which procured sleep to the patient, when, in many instances, opiates had not that effect; and on waking, the patient found himself much refreshed; the pain in the head, and heat of the skin, were abated; and the pulse was less frequent. I continued to employ the cold affusion and application till the symptoms were so far relieved as to render the frequent use of purgatives unnecessary; when I usually recommended the liberal use of bottled porter, as being more relished than wine, and less frequently ejected from the stomach; having also, in the course of the disease, occasionally given the saline draught in a state of effervescence, which had the effect of allaying that irritation of the stomach, so generally occurring in fever, and of promoting appetite and digestion. In the convalescent state, I gave the decoction of bark with

muriatic acid, and always found it productive of the most beneficial effects. Some few other palliatives were occasionally administered; but it is to be understood, that the solution of Epsom salt was what I chiefly depended upon in the cure of this fever; the cold affusion was only employed in a few instances, cold applications to the head being found more generally necessary. I have now followed this plan of treatment in upwards of eighty well marked cases of typhus fever, within twelve months, with the most happy results, having only lost three patients out of that number; and in the fatal cases, diarrhœa and high delirium took place from the beginning of the disease; symptoms which I always consider as indicative of imminent danger. Although I have only mentioned certain periods, where aperient medicines and the cold affusions may be dispensed with; I am always aware, that under the influence of situation, state of the atmosphere, and constitution of the patient, favouring a more malign state of the disease, their use cannot be so strictly adhered to; and, indeed, no decisive mode of treatment, applicable to every case, can be laid down, as we must (for the most part) be guided by the modification of the disease and constitution of the patient. The purgative plan of treatment does not rest solely upon my own experience, having seen drastic purgatives extensively employed by Dr. Hamilton, of the Royal Infirmary; Drs. Irwin and Thompson, of the Military Hospital, Edinburgh; and Dr. Collingwood, of the Universal Medical Institution, London; but those of a saline nature, (so far as I am aware) have never been solely employed in the cure of this disease. Emetics I seldom gave; but when I did, I never found the fever cut short, or the symptoms much alleviated by their use. Blood-letting being at present much recommended, and extensively employed in typhus fever, I was led to try its early use, in a few cases, wherein it seemed to be indicated; but I always found that the disease afterwards assumed a more typhoid type; the symptoms of debility were increased, and the patient's recovery considerably retarded, though I have no doubt that in some cases, particularly in robust habit, blood-letting, employed very early in the disease, may sometimes be useful; but, in general, the medical practitioner is not called until the complaint has been of some days' standing; when the abstraction of blood not only tends to weaken the patients, but is frequently the means of converting that fever, which (without such interference) might have been of a mild nature, into one of a malignant type. The indiscriminate use of the lancet, therefore, as followed by some practitioners, in every case of typhus fever, points out a probable reason why it has not been attended with equal success as the simple mode of treatment herein recommended. Sudorifics of a very stimulating nature, are improper in the beginning of this disease, as well as are all kinds of food and medicine, which have a tendency materially to quicken the circulation; wine, the Peruvian bark, &c. ought not therefore to be given until the febrile symptoms are very considerably diminished. When sudorifics are had recourse to, those of a saline nature (as Mendererus's spirit) ought to be preferred; but, in general, there is no necessity for medicines strictly of this class; the Epsom salt having frequently,

in conjunction with its purgative effects, the power of acting as a diaphoretic and refrigerant, thereby tending to diminish the action of the heart and arteries. Blisters I seldom found necessary, unless when visceral inflammation rendered their use indispensable. Opiates can rarely be employed, until purgatives become unnecessary. I cannot too strongly recommend a proper attention to fumigation, ventilation, and cleanliness, as assistant means of prevention and cure of this disease. The muriatic acid and nitric acid gases, vinegar, and tobacco smoke, were the fumigations I generally employed; which, together with a free circulation of air in the apartments, clean linen, &c. and white-washing the wall of the rooms with quick lime, I always found highly useful.

"From what I have said, it will appear, that typhus fever may be cured solely by the use of saline purgative, and occasionally cold affusion, which is a much more simple and safe method of cure, than any I am acquainted with, answering every purpose for which blood-letting has been recommended, without being followed by its debilitating effects; and it is moreover, unattended with many of the other inconveniences and ill consequences arising from different modes of practice.

"I have been led to the publication of this Essay, from observing the less successful practice of those who employ blood-letting, &c. in the course of typhus fever; hoping that the practice I have recommended will prove equally efficacious in the hands of others as with myself; by which I should be much gratified, and may further be induced to lay before the profession, observations on the use of *saline purgatives* in some other disease." We regret that Mr. Collingwood has omitted to state, if blood-letting had been employed in the cases which terminated fatally, the remedy being indicated by high delirium, and also by diarrhœa. He should also have stated to what extent it was carried in those cases in which he supposes it to have proved injurious.

GOUT.—The following recipe for this disease we received from a gentleman residing near Birmingham, much esteemed for his extensive scientific attainments, and most philanthropic disposition. He states, that since he has made use of the remedy, he has remained free from gout. The recipe was originally received from an eminent physician of Manchester:—

Take of Rheubarb, powdered;
Guaiac Gum, ditto;
Nitrate of Potass, ditto;
Flowers of Sulphur, of each one ounce:
Treacle, one pound.
Mix well together.

From one to two tea-spoonsful (according to its aperient effects) to be taken every night, with a little warm gin and water. Our correspondent has suffered exceedingly by local, and, we may say, general gout, no part of the body at times, being entirely free from irritation. Every joint has been disfigured by the disease. To an interval of ease he had been a stranger for many years, until

he took this remedy. A colonel of Devonshire also, a very gouty subject, informs us, that he has remained free from a regular paroxysm, flying pains, and spasms of the bowels, since he has adopted the advice of the late Dr. Rush, of Philadelphia, and has enjoyed good health; viz. of losing blood, when his system of blood vessels was evidently overloaded, by taking a cordial aperient once or twice a week (the receipt for which he has promised to send us for publication in our next number), and avoiding vinous or spirituous liquors. This gentleman's constitution is predisposed to inflammatory excitement, and he has occasionally suffered from a preternatural determination of blood to the brain. Twelve months ago he experienced an attack of inflammation of the brain, and high degree of fever, which he attributes to the use of a preparation of iron, and a stimulating regimen, recommended to him by a late writer on gout. Previous to his consulting this author, he had taken, with great advantage, Dr. Wilson's tincture for gout, which he had found to succeed in allaying pain, after the Eau Medicinale, and other advertised remedies, had disagreed with him. The following is an extract of a letter we received from a very respectable gentleman in Bath, since we wrote the preceding observations. "Since your notice of Dr. Wilson's tincture, I have uniformly taken that medicine when attacked by gout, a disease by which I have suffered much ever since I was 27 years of age, a period of 32 years. For nearly four years I have derived the greatest benefit from Dr. Wilson's tincture. I never exceed 60 drops every twenty-four hours. I always find the first dose very considerably to abate the pain. After which, the swelling and soreness still remaining, I continue the dose every night until the effects entirely leave me. I find no inconvenience from the remedy;—so far from disturbing the stomach, bowels, or the system, my general health has very much improved since I took the medicine, and my digestive organs were never in a better state. The *Eau Medicinale*, which I took occasionally for the space of a year, on the contrary, destroyed my appetite, and reduced my general health to such a degree, that I was under the necessity of relinquishing its use." This gentleman we know to be unacquainted with Dr. Wilson. His only motive in making this communication, is to recommend a remedy to the attention of gouty subjects, which he firmly believes to be a valuable medicine, and which has been condemned by some narrow-minded practitioners, from a most dishonourable motive. A corpulent lady residing in the Strand, who has been subject to gout for many years, attributes the loss of the use of her lower extremities to the operation of a nostrum. If Mr. Reynolds should be desirous to enquire into the particulars of this case; we will with pleasure give him her address.

RHEUMATIC GOUT.—A gentleman subject to this disease informs us, that he has found the following medicine, prescribed by Dr. Baillie, always to succeed in removing it, and in allaying the general excitement of the brain and nervous system, which uniformly accompanied it:—

Take of Camphorated Mixture, seven drachms;
Infusion of Rhubarb, five ditto;
Tincture of Henbane, half a drachm;
Subcarbonate of Potass, ten grains.

Mix for a draught. To be taken two or three time a-day, particularly the last thing at night.

RHEUMATISM.—"Sirs,—I have lately met with many cases of a disease, for which I cannot fix upon a more proper name than chronico-acute rheumatism; being, in respect to its duration, chronic, and in its system acute. It consists in an inflammatory excitement, of, apparently, all the membranous covering of the bones of the body and ligaments of the joints; the membranes of bones not covered with muscles, as the skin, forehead, &c. are sometimes partially tumefied; the knees and wrists are always much enlarged, and the bursæ mucosæ distended. It is always attended with a small quick pulse, increased heat of body, and general irritability of the nervous system. The brain is also irritable, the patient very rarely gets sound or refreshing sleep—the appetite is generally good, but digestion is evidently imperfect, the patient suffering much from flatulence and pains in the bowels. Having found the usual treatment both of chronic and acute rheumatism, as anodynes, sudorifics, mineral and vegetable alteratives, saline febrifuges, tonics, warm bath, &c. rather to aggravate the sufferings of the patient than otherwise, I determined to adopt a treatment with a view of allaying the morbid irritability of the brain and nervous system. With this view, after correcting the digestive organs as directed by Mr. Abernethy, I commenced by applying cold water and vinegar, by means of a napkin, to the scalp. The salutary effects of this treatment were apparent in less than twenty hours; the pains in the head and extremities abated very considerably, the pulse lost its peculiar quickness, and the heat of the system was reduced nearly to its natural standard. The following night my patient enjoyed a good night's rest, and awoke very much refreshed. The advantage I had thus gained induced me to order the body to be washed every night and morning; and in order to prevent spasms of the stomach, and griping pains in the intestines, I directed a wine-glassful of the following mixture to be taken two or three times aday:—

Take of Camphorated Julep, 6 ounces;
Tincture of Cascarilla, ½ ounce;
of Cardamoms, compound, 6 drachms. Mix.

I also ordered a draught of tincture of senna and rhubarb to be taken every morning, to obviate costiveness to which he was subject. During the use of this treatment, his progress to health was rapid. Still, however, experiencing every evening a recurrence of fever, with head-ache, I ordered the scalp (which had been shaved) to be rubbed twice a-day with a piece of ice, and two days afterwards also the joints, which continued enlarged. In three weeks this mode of treatment so completely succeeded in removing every symptom of the malady, that he was able to follow his usual occupation, viz. that of a bricklayer, after having been confined to his bed-room nearly four years. About two years before I saw the

patient, he had been salivated by the parish surgeon, under the supposition that the tumefactions of the membrane of the shin-bone were syphilitic. The mercury, during the five first days of taking it, seemed to quiet the disease, but as soon as the mouth was affected, his sufferings increased. Perspiration never relieved him, and to the use of flannel next the skin, he attributed the obstinacy of the disease, and in this opinion I am inclined to coincide. The use of flannel next the skin of a rheumatic subject, whose nervous system is irritable or too excitable, I am satisfied is very injurious; and as long as the patient continues to wear it, he will be subject to attacks of rheumatism on certain changes in the atmosphere.—Not only the foregoing case, but many other similar ones have long convinced me that it is much wiser to allay the irritability of the nervous system by occasional cold bathing, than to keep up the excitability of the system by covering the body with flannel. Nothing tends more to diminish morbid sensibility of the nervous system than abstraction of heat. The cold air-bath, viz.—suddenly leaping out of bed in a state of nudity, and walking about the room four or five minutes, after changing the air by opening the doors and windows, I can say from experience, is beneficial to people pre-disposed to irritative rheumatism. I am, Sirs, your constant Reader and Friend,

Clifton, Oct. 16, 1819. " JAMES RICHARDS, N.S.

" *P. S.* I find on re-perusing my letter, that I have neglected to state, that the disease was very greatly aggravated by sulphurous fumigation."

FOMENTATION.—" SIRS, Chemistry having been a favourite study of mine during the period of my apprenticeship to a surgeon and apothecary, I presumed, one day on going over the wards of St. Bartholomew's Hospital with the late Sir James Earle, to ask him upon what principle he recommended warm fomentation in a case of active inflammation. The knight's answer did not a little astonish me, viz. he knew no other reason, than because it generally proves beneficial. I then enquired if it was not of some consequence that it should be applied at a certain temperature; to which he answered, the sister (the nurse of the ward) will see to that. I agree in opinion of a correspondent in your Forty-fifth Number, that much mischief is done by fomentations in cases of accidents and active inflammation. A few weeks ago I found a nurse in a public hospital fomenting an inflamed part, with flannels, wrung out of *boiling* water, and that too in a part where the extension of the inflammation or suppuration would endanger life. In cases of fractured bones and inflammation of joints, I have known fomentations by ignorant nurses, followed by very extensive mischief. In some cases of inflammation of the eyes, although under the sanction of Sir William Adams, I have known it to aggravate the disease to a very serious extent. Some little time since I met with as distressing a case as ever occurred in surgery, which I attribute solely to imprudent fomentation. The patient, in consequence of a strain, was seized with a violent pain about the neck of the bladder. Fomentation was employed three times a day, and notwithstanding the distress of the patient increased, it was continued. At length a tumour

appeared, which evidently contained matter. The fomentation was in consequence repeated more frequently. The abscess presented in the perinæum, &c. It broke in the rectum, the perinæum, groin and scrotum, and through each opening the urine escaped!! Now had blood been extracted by leeches, or by opening a vein, an evaporating lotion applied to the part, and antiplogistic remedies and regimen adopted, would not the result have been very different? My object in addressing this letter to you is to point out the impropriety of increasing the afflux of blood to an inflamed part, with the view of dispersion, and to induce surgeons to give some direction as to the degree of heat that should be employed when fomentation is proper. The beneficial effects of fomentation in cases of indolent tumours and effusion of blood, evidently arising from the application of warm vapour, (which should never exceed 140 Fahr.) the practice of some surgeons, in ordering decoction of herbs, is, in my humble opinion, ridiculous.

"I am, Sirs, your very obedient Servant,

"*London, Oct. 21st*, 1819. "ROBERT JONES."

DOCTOR DE VERLANGIN's BALSAM OF LIFE.—This medicine is held in great estimation by many elderly ladies, as a stomachic aperient, at that period of life, which is generally termed, the "Turn of Life;" and when the patient is subject to head-ache, giddiness, or confusion of head from a preternatural determination of blood to the brain, it is doubtless a good remedy; but when morbid irritation exists in the rectum or uterus, or any structural disease of either of these parts, a very common occurrence at this certainly critical period of life), it is a very improper remedy, on account of the aloes it contains. It is made in the following manner:

Take of Extract of Liquorice, ½ an ounce;
Sub-carbonate of Potass, 2 scruples;
Socotrine Aloes, powdered, 1½ drachm;
Turkey Myrrh, powdered,
Hay Saffron, of each, 1 drachm. Mix, and boil in a pint of water, till reduced to ¼ of a pint, then strain, and add
Compound Tincture of Cardamoms, 4 ounces.

JAMES'S POWDERS.—Sirs,—Whether the febrifuge powders of the late Dr. James, and the Antimonial Febrifuge Powder of the London Pharmacopœia, are, as you state, the same thing, I am not prepared to say from chemical examination. In my own practice they have both proved so uncertain in exciting perspiration, that I found it necessary to render them more active by an addition of the precipitated sulphuret of antimony according to the subjoined form; this composition I have uniformly found to produce the desired effects; and I have no hesitation in pronouncing it to be a very superior febrifuge medicine to the article sold under the name of James's Powders.—It will also be found to suceeed as well as "the infallible Fever Powder of Colonel Riddle," which is a composition of emetic tartar of sugar. I am yours, &c.

Liverpool, Dec. 4th, 1819. JAMES ARNOTT.

Improved James's Powders.

Take of Antimonial Powder, 5 drachms;
Precipitated sulphuret of Antimony, 1½ drachm. Mix well together.—The dose to an adult is 5 grains.

SCULL-CAP.—Since the article on Hydrophobia, which appears in the present number, was printed, we have received from Dr. Spalding, an eminent physician of New-York, a copy of a Treatise on the *Scutellaria lateriflora* (Scull-cap,) as a remedy for the prevention and cure of Hydrophobia. It appears by this work, that the anti-hydrophobic properties of this herb were known to Dr. Laurance Van Derveer, of Roysfield, New-Jersey, so far back as the year 1761. That it has been administered to more than 850 persons bitten by animals believed to be mad, and in only three instances have symptoms of hydrophobia supervened, and in each of these cases the quantity of the plant taken was very inconsiderable; and in two, the symptoms disappeared on taking the medicine more freely; that it has been given to more than 1100 brutes bitten by animals supposed to be mad, and in no instance have any symptoms of madness appeared; and that in more than one hundred instances experiments have been made to test the antidotal powers of this plant, by giving it only to a part of the animals bitten: and it is stated, that in every experiment, those animals which did not take the remedy, died mad, but in no instance have any of those which took it had any indisposition.

Dr. W. G. Nice, of Manchester, Virginia, has published an account of two black boys and two hogs, which were cured by the Scull-cap. The following are the directions for administering the Scull-cap:—Take the plant, gathered either before the dog-days begin, or after they are over, *i. e.* before the 30th of July, and after the 10th of September, and dry it in the shade,—cut it fine, and bottle it up closely. Of this make a decoction as strong as common tea, and give to an adult half a pint night and morning, fasting; to a child of three years old, one gill; to a child of eight years, one gill and a half; and to a child of twelve years, two gills. The patient, on every third day during the period of taking the remedy, must omit taking it, and in lieu of it, take two tea-spoonsful of finely powdered *roll* brimstone (with treacle), or a sufficiency to procure a free passage;—continue this course forty days. The patient must abstain from butter or milk, or any thing of a greasy nature in his diet, and entirely from spirituous liquors. It is also important, says the Doctor, that he should not wet his feet. The Scull-cap grows in most shady places; it is from one to three feet high, bearing small blue flowers from the latter end of July to September. Pursh gives nine species of the American Scull-cap. The species, the *lateriflora*, which is recommended by Dr. Spalding as a remedy for hydrophobia, is distinguished from the others by the branched character of the herb, its oval, serrated, sharp-pointed leaves, supported on long petroles or leaf-stalks. The fructification, whence the specific name of the plant is derived, proceeds from the axilla, or base of each of the leaves of the branches. The proofs given by Dr. Spalding, of the specific effects of the Scull-cap in hydrophobia, are stronger than have appeared in favour of any other remedy, and such as entitle it to the attention of the medical profession of this country.

FLUOR ALBUS, PASSIVE HÆMORRHAGE *from the* UTERUS, &c.—Dr. Bath, of Nordhausen, has published, in Hufeland's Journal, some remarkable cases of passive menorrhagia

(hæmorrhage from the uterus), and fluor albus; which, after resisting the usual remedies, as bark, sulphuric acid, decoction of catechu, extract of logwood, alum, ipecacuan, opium, henbane, &c. &c. as well as injections of oak bark, galls, &c., were very speedily cured by administering a wine-glassful of the decoction of rhatany, three times a day. The doctor notices three cases of fluor albus, three of uterine hæmorrhage, and one of emaciation and debility, in a young man, in which it fully succeeded. In each of the cases, he says, all the hitherto known resources of medicine had failed, and of course that the rhatany root alone saved the victims from a premature grave.

Sir Henry Halford some time since informed us, that he had found the rhatany root more beneficial in fluor albus than any other tonic medicine; and with the late Dr. Clarke it was a very favourite remedy for this disease. In a late number we recommended a mixture of the tincture of this root, and of cubebs, in the dose of two tea-spoonsful two or three times a day, in a glass of water, as a remedy for fluor albus and gleet, attended with general debility; and of the beneficial effects of this composition we have received respectable testimonies from different parts of the country. In our own practice it has exceeded our expectations. Dr. De Sanctis, a scientific physician of great experience, has prescribed the decoction of the rhatany root, in case of passive hæmorrhage of the lungs, with complete success. The tincture and the *foreign* extract are the best preparations of the root. We have satisfactorily ascertained that the powder of the bark of the cherry tree, and of the chesnut tree, has been generally sold throughout this country for powdered rhatany root. This fraud we have traced to the grinder of the articles.

LOCK DISPENSARY.—"Sirs,—In consequence of seeing an Institution, advertised under the name of the Lock Dispensary, established under the sanction of the Duke of York, for the cure of a certain class of diseases, I sent my servant to it for advice. On his return, he told me that the *surgeon* had charged for the medicine he had given him, including his advice. The following day I accordingly called for an explanation of this demand, under the conviction, that my servant was practising an imposition on myself; to my great astonishment, I found the said Lock Dispensary, under Royal patronage, to consist of an apothecary's shop of a low description, superintended by a man whom I found to be on a par with his shop. To questions respecting the nature of the Institution, he replied, that it was not a *charitable* one. Why then, I asked, is it advertised under the patronage of His Royal Highness the Duke of York? Is it because the surgeon possesses superior abilities; or that the medicines are of superior quality? To this question the surgeon seemed at a loss for a reply. I accordingly declined to give him any further trouble. As you have so manfully come forward to expose the unworthy practices of every class of practitioners, I hope you will give some account of this said Lock Dispensary, and ascertain if it be really sanctioned by the Duke of

York. Your compliance will confer a favour on the public, as well as on "Your obedient servant,

"*Bedford-street, October 16th*, 1819. "JAMES RAYMENT."

On applying to a proper quarter respecting the "Lock Dispensary" (which, in consequence of the preceding letter, we conceived it was our duty to do) we received the following reply. His Royal Highness the Duke of York has no recollection of having patronised the Lock Dispensary; and he is perfectly ignorant of the existence of such an Institution!!

THE FEE TRADE.--The wife of a poor labourer residing in Brentford, afflicted with a painful chronic complaint, hearing that a neighbour had sent to an eminent surgeon of London, to solicit his immediate attendance upon himself, determined to take his advice. The weekly wages of her husband being barely equal to the maintenance of his family, (consisting of five shillings) she was under the necessity of borrowing from different friends small sums to make up the fee of one guinea—which they cheerfully lent her, under the supposition, that no surgeon, possessed of the ordinary feelings of a man, would take a fee after seeing her wretched state of poverty, her lodgings and ragged children exhibited. The surgeon soon gave his fiat. The poor woman made an effort to erect her body to present the fee, consisting of 16 shillings and 10 sixpences. The surgeon humanely bent forward to save her the trouble, and in his usual polite manner took the money, and wished "her better." All he did towards her relief was to express his approbation of what had been done for her by her medical attendant!!! A gentleman afterwards consulted this surgeon at his house in London, and after being annoyed twice by the servant's knuckles on the door, gave him two pounds. The patient's brother, who accompanied him, desiring to know his *private* opinion of his case, remained behind to obtain it. The surgeon briefly replied, "Oh, he'll do very well;"—he presented a fee of one pound, which was graciously received!! A lady residing at the west end, requested a physician, with whom she had long been on terms of great intimacy, to prescribe for her daughter. On leaving the house, the lady having no small notes, observed, "Doctor, I hope you will have no objection to give me credit for the fee till the next visit?"—"Why," replied the doctor, "with such an old friend, I certainly cannot; but the only *tick* I am acquainted with is the *tick* of my watch." Lord D. meeting the late Dr. Warren in his carriage, requested some additional information respecting a medicine he had presented the same morning; the doctor having answered his question, his lordship presented the fee, which the doctor politely took, observing, "My Lord, this is really something like robbing a person on the highway!!"

A farmer gave a surgeon at Richmond (who lately *transferred* his practice to the best bidder!!) a fee of three pounds for one visit. On calling the two following days, the same fee was presented; and the patient, supposing that he should not require his further attendance, told him that he should send to him if he should not continue to go on well under the treatment he had laid down, the surgeon humbly

replied, "as my assistance may not be required, you may as well give me nine shillings which are due to me, you having *paid* me in pounds instead of guineas"!! The preceding anecdotes we know to be facts.—Does not such sordid conduct sink the profession in the estimation of thinking men, and drive invalids to the patent medicine shops?

STOMACHIC APERIENT PILLS.—A correspondent informs us, that the pills made according to the following recipe, have been long prescribed by a respectable practitioner at the west end of London, as a dinner pill, with success:—

Take of Rhubarb Root, powdered, one and a-half drachm;
Turkey Myrrh, one ditto;
Socotrine aloes, half ditto;
Extract of Camomile Flowers, two and a-half ditto;
Essential Oil of ditto, fifteen drops.

Mix well together, and divide into eighty pills. Two or three to be taken about an hour before dinner.

TOOTH-ACHE.—The gentleman from whom we have received the foregoing prescription, has found the following receipt very beneficial in allaying the tooth-ache:—

Take of Tincture of opium,
Rectified Spirit of wine, of each three ounces,
Camphor, six drachms;
Opium, powdered, one and a-half drachm;
Pellitory of Spain Root, half an ounce.

Macerate for eight days.

For the use of this tincture he gives the following directions:—"A small piece of lint or cotton to be dipped into the tincture, and placed in the cavity of the affected tooth." In our first number we have noticed a tincture for this disease, made by Perry, of Farnham, which we have found much more efficacious than a remedy very similar to the above.

THE SOUL.—Mr. George Whipple, a scientific chemist, after an able lecture on gravitation, wherein his arguments and diagrams principally directed against the late theories of Sir Richard Phillips, were incontestible, delivered a short essay on the planets, in which he gave an opinion, that the souls of one planet are destined to inhabit another; and that they pass on in an endless revolution. A correspondent thinks that this doctrine militates against eternity. If space, like eternity, has no end,—that there are "worlds beyond worlds to an *infinite* extent," we cannot see how Mr. Whipple's theory affects the doctrines of eternity or immortality. Besides, as some philosophers suppose, creation of worlds may be still going on. To say the best of such theories, they are flights of fancy, and as likely to direct the attention of inconsiderate mortals to a consideration of a future state, and, to a just estimate of life, they may be productive of some good. Of futurity, man seems to have a kind of instinctive conviction; and further than that, reason seems incompetent to guide him.

To what a mortifying condition of insignificance does the incomprehensible magnitude of the heavenly bodies, moving in infinite

space, reduce proud man! To the contemplative astronomer, this earth, with the human inhabitants, must appear little more than "an ant hill, where some ants carry corn, some their young, and some go without any thing, and all to and fro, a little heap of dust." He is even afraid to suppose himself an object of the attention of the great Creator. But when he minutely examines the human body, that it exists by a continuance of a power no less admirable than that which rules the heavenly bodies; "he sees that there is a revolution, a circle of motions no less wonderful in his own frame, in the microcosm of man's body, than in the planetary system; and that there is not a globule of blood which circulates, but possesses attraction, as incomprehensible and wonderful as that which retains the planets in their orbits."

STRICTURE, GLEET, &c.—In a supplement to the present Number, which the Editors hope to be able to publish about the 15th instant, they purpose giving a description of an instrument lately recommended by Mr. Arnott, for dilating stricture of the urethra, with some practical remarks on the inutility of the invention, and on different kinds of stricture. A further account of the effects of cubebs, the native liquid resin of spine in gleet, &c. and other information, which is not admissible in their regular Numbers. The price will not exceed sixpence. As it will not be forwarded with the next Number, as a matter of course, those subscribers who may wish to have it, must order their booksellers to procure it.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—A correspondent (Mr. W. Jones) solicits information relative to the diseases that prevail in this settlement, and such medicines a visitor should take with him. We know of no disease to which the inhabitants or visitors are particularly liable. The diseases of the country are for the most part inflammatory, and therefore purgative and sudorific medicines are likely to prove most useful, as the Epsom salt; the powder recommended in the present Number, is an improvement on Dr. James's fever powder and prepared calomel; the dilute vitriolic acid is also a very valuable medicine, to secure the system against the baneful influence of an atmosphere of a higher temperature, than the person has been accustomed to.

The Peruvian bark, laudanum, ipecacuan powder, magnesia, flowers of sulphur, mercurial ointment, and blistering plaister, will also be necessary. For the stings or bites of venomous reptiles, &c. the Eau de Luce is the best application. The following recipes for preserving yeast and animal food, are taken from a very valuable pamphlet, lately published by Mr. Pybus, of Hull, the Author of a Manual of Useful Knowledge, under the title of "Family Useful Companion, containing a variety of Domestic Receipts, selected from various Authors." This work the Editors recommend to the attention of Mr. W. Jones.

"*Method of preserving Yeast, for all Domestic Uses.*—When the yeast is taken from new beer, it must be put into a clean linen bag, and be laid in a vessel half full of dry sifted wood ashes; the whole is then to be covered to the thickness of three or four inches with

similar ashes, and be pressed together; in this situation, the barm should remain for a day, or longer, if it be necessary, when the ashes will absorb all the moisture, and the yeast acquire the consistence of a thick paste. It must now be formed into small lumps, or balls, dried in a moderate heat, and kept in bags, in an airy, dry place; when any barm is wanted, a few of such balls may be dissolved in warm water, or, which is preferable, in beer, and they will answer every purpose of fermentation."

"*For pickling Beef, Pork, Mutton, &c. and keeping the meat good and sweet.*—Take four gallons of good water, to which add one pound and a half of muscovado sugar (molasses will answer), two ounces of salt petre, and six pounds of bay or common great salt, put the whole into a clean pot or kettle, and let it boil, being careful to take all the scum off as it comes up: when no more scum rises, take the liquor off, and let it stand till it is cold; then having put the meat you want to preserve into the vessel you intend to keep it in, pour the liquor over the meat till it be quite covered, in which condition it must be kept.

"If you intend to preserve your meat for a considerable length of time, it will be necessary once in two months to boil the pickle over again, skimming off all that rises, and throwing in during the boiling two ounces of sugar and half a pound of common small salt; thus the same pickle will hold good for twelve months. This pickle is incomparable to cure hams, neat's tongues, or beef which you intend to dry, or make what is called hung beef; observing when you take them out of the pickle first to clean and dry them, then put them *into* paper bags, and hang them up in a dry warm place.

"N. B. Some who have tried the above receipt, choose their meat salter than this will effect; and instead of six take eight or nine pounds of salt.

"In the hottest weather it has been found necessary, before the meat is put into the pickle, to rub it well over with salt, and let it lie from one to three or four hours, until all the blood runs out from it.

"If the meat is in the least tainted before it is put into the pickle, it will be entirely spoiled in a day's time in hot weather."

To this receipt the lignic acid, noticed in a late Number, will prove a very valuable additon.

In the Medical Guide, Mr. Jones will find some useful information respecting bilious attacks, and directions for the use of the medicines recommended above.

RYMER'S CARDIAC AND NERVOUS TINCTURE.—The following is a verbatim copy of *Surgeon* or *Doctor* Rymer's specification of his "new invention," as inrolled in His Majesty's high Court of Chancery, the 22d day of August, 1792:—"Now know ye that I, the said James Rymer, do hereby, in pursuance of the said proviso, *describe* and *ascertain* the NATURE of my said invention, and declare that the same is composed in manner following; i. e. I take of the extract of camomile flowers, peppermint, lavender, rosemary, colt's-foot, dandelion, sage, aniseeds, caraway seed, lesser

cardamoms, Russian castor, nutmegs, guaiacum, myrrh, sassafras, ginger, columbo, saffron, bark, Russian rhubarb, snake root, of each one pound; camphor dissolved in rectified spirit of wine, one pound; Madeira wine, and the best French brandy, of each ten gallons. I digest them one month, and strain: lastly, I put the tincture into an APPARATUS, and impregnate it strongly with aerial acid." Such a jumble of stimulants, astringents, aperients, pectorants, &c. we never met with before. Most of the specifications inrolled in the Court of Chancery, we have already observed, are artfully worded in an obscure manner, for the purpose of deception; and very few patent nostrums are made, or indeed can be made, according to the specifications. Of what use are the colt's-foot, the sage, and many other articles in this recipe? Again: Is a mixture of brandy and wine a proper solvent for the guaiac gum, or for holding the camphor in solution? After the tincture is strained, it is to be *strongly* impregnated with the *aerial acid*, by which the learned gentleman means fix air! The idea of strongly impregnating a tincture with fix air, is truly ridiculous. Now if the acid the tincture contains be the *aerial acid*, why should an effervescence ensue on adding to it the carbonate of potass?

If Mr. Rymer follows his specification in making this tincture, instead of capsicum, as stated in our analysis, it contains ginger. The stimulating part of ginger does not differ in any respect (either chemically or medicinally) from capsicum; and, therefore, whether the former or latter be employed, is of no consequence;—chemistry is not arrived to that perfection that we can ascertain the stimulating part of capsicum from ginger, for neither resides in an essential oil, but in a resin, which, as we observed before, do not differ. That our analysis is as correct as chemistry will admit of, we have no doubt of being able to prove to the satisfaction of a British Jury.

As a stimulant, the composition, according to the specification, is more powerful than that on which we have commented; and, therefore, the objections we have made to it as a remedy in cases of inflammatory excitement, apply to it in a stronger degree. Would any practitioner of observation and experience, administer such a remedy in cases of "belly-ache of children from wind and spasms, on a lump of sugar"? The complaints of children are all of inflammatory excitement, and wind and spasms are uniform attendants on inflammation of the bowels. That many thousand lives of children are destroyed annually by the exhibition of stimulants in cases of bowel complaints, by ignorant mothers, *old women*, and *quacks*, no practitioner will deny; we do therefore conceive, that we are entitled to the thanks of Mr. or Dr. Rymer, for having pointed out the cases in which his tincture is likely to prove injurious; and this we do flatter ourselves we have done in a manner not discreditable to us. We see nothing in Mr. Rymer's specification that could entitle him to a patent; the *virtues* of the articles were well known, and from such a combination of them, no peculiar advantage can result. In the specification he has omitted to describe the virtues of the composition, as required by law.

SELECT ADVERTISEMENTS.

EGYPTIAN HALL, PICCADILLY, Dec. 26, 1819.

MR. BULLOCK has the honour of informing the NOBILITY, GENTRY, and PUBLIC, that, encouraged by the success of his late undertaking to sell in person the various and valuable contents of his *Museum of Natural History, and the Fine Arts*, he has commenced the general business of an AUCTIONEER, and for that purpose fitted up the EGYPTIAN HALL (late the London Museum), Piccadilly, in a style of great elegance. This extensive edifice now contains by far the largest and most convenient *suite* of Apartments for general Trade in the Metropolis, and presents a mart for either public or private sale on a scale which has not heretofore existed. The premises contain upwards of sixteen hundred feet in length of wall, the whole of which is laid out and arranged for the display of articles on sale in a manner the best suited for the mutual interests of the buyer and seller. The great Apartment, lately occupied by the Museum, is fitted up in a style of corresponding Architecture with the exterior of the building, and is probably the finest Egyptian Chamber in existence; it is sixty feet in length, by forty feet in height. This splendid Apartment will be solely devoted for the Exhibition of Natural History, Works of Art, &c. on Private Sale, which will be arranged in the most suitable manner for public inspection.

The situation of the Egyptian Hall, in the centre of the court end of town, and of all the fashionable Promenades, has already given this building greater notoriety and attraction than perhaps any other in the metropolis, and the best arrangements will be made to conduct the business on a scale in the highest degree liberal and respectable.

Mr. BULLOCK's constant habits of business in his long connexion, during the formation of his late Museum, with the most celebrated scientific characters and collectors of articles of rarity and curiosity all over Europe, will, it is presumed, present an advantage in the highest degree beneficial to the proprietors of works of science and art, who may be disposed to offer them for sale at his new establishment. No personal exertion on the part of the Proprietor shall be wanting to fulfil the wishes of those who may honour him with their confidence and commands.

The situation and extent of the Premises, and their universal adaptation for general trade of every description, must be obvious to the Public. There cannot be a finer or more established Mart for the disposal either by Private Contract or Public Auction of Pictures, Marbles, Drawings, Books, and Engravings, Cameos, Subjects of Natural History and Antiquity, rare Works in Ivory, Japan, &c. &c. China, Cabinet Work and Furniture of every description; in short, every article of either ornament or use, for which any demand can be created.

The Commission on Articles sold by Private Contract is £10. per cent. and at the rate of £2½. per cent. per ann. on all articles not

sold, to be estimated on the Proprietor's prices, and to be settled previous to the redelivery of the property.

Property of the foregoing description, sold by Auction, is subject to a Commission of £7½ per cent. (which includes the Sale Expenses of Advertising, printing Catalogues, &c.), and to £2½. per cent. on the amount bought in, Books and Natural History excepted, which are subject to £10. per cent. commission on the amount sold, when the sale of such property does not amount to £1000.

The regular Sales commence on the 7th of December, and continue the whole season.

Rooms occasionally to be Let for the Exhibition of Works of Art, or other Public Purposes.

Patents and new Inventions received for Exhibition.

WORKS JUST PUBLISHED BY HIGHLEY AND SON, FLEET STREET.

1. A PRACTICAL TREATISE on the PREVENTION and CURE of a CERTAIN DISEASE and its CONSEQUENCES; in which a mild and successful mode of treatment is pointed out, including Observations on Strictures, Cutaneous Eruptions, Imaginary Diseases, &c. Intended as a Guide against the dangerous effects of this baneful Malady. By T. M. CATON, Surgeon, 10, Stanhope Street, Newcastle Street, Strand; and late of the United Hospitals of St. Thomas's and Guy's. A New Edition, price 5s. illustrated with Cases.

2. A TREATISE on INDIGESTION, being an Inquiry into the Diseases arising and connected with the Functions of the Stomach, with Remarks on the Liver, and its Influence on the Gastric System. To which are prefixed, some general Observations on Scrophulous and Cutaneous Diseases, price 3s.

3. PRACTICAL OBSERVATIONS on the DEBILITIES, Natural and Acquired, price 3s. 6d.

4. A PRACTICAL TREATISE on FEMALE DISEASES, including Observations on Parturition, Lactation, and the Disorders incident to those important changes, price 3s. 6d.

5. POPULAR REMARKS, Medical and Literary, on Hypochondriac, Hysteric, and Nervous Diseases, with Observations on Suicide, Mind, &c. &c. price 3s. 6d.

TO THE MEDICAL WORLD.

Mr. SHEE, Landed Estate and Clerical Agent, No. 41, Southampton Row, Russell Square, has the Honour to announce to the Medical Profession, his Intention to annex to the Branches of Agency, to which he has hitherto devoted himself, *that of Medical Agency*. Gentlemen desirous of disposing of, or acquiring, either wholly or by Partnership, Medical Establishments in Town or Country, will be at Liberty to command the most zealous, and the confidential services of Mr. Shee,

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Contents of the Portable Chest of Chemistry,

FITTED UP AT THE

CHEMICAL & MEDICAL HALL, 171, PICCADILLY,

Nearly opposite Bond Street.

On the top of the Chest are partitions for forty-six stopper bottles of different sizes, with wide and narrow mouths, for the following articles. Each bottle, independent of a label, has a number engraved upon it, that in case the paper label should be destroyed, the contents of the bottle may be ascertained by the numerical arrangement of the Chemical Guide.

1. Black oxid manganese
2. Metallic zinc
3. Metallic nickel
4. Carbonate potass
5. Sulphuric acid
6. Muriatic acid
7. Nitric acid
8. Carbonate soda
9. Carbonate ammonia
10. Muriate lime
11. Solut. pure potash
12. Solut. pure ammonia
13. Solut. sulphate iron
14. Prussiate potash and iron
15. Tinct. galls
16. Solut. mur. tin
17. Sulphuret potass
18. Solut. acetite lead
19. Solut. oxalate ammonia
20. Solut. nitrate lead
21. Solut. sulphate manganese
22. Crys. bor. acid
23. Solut. nitrate barytes
24. Solut. muriate copper
25. Sulphuric ether
26. Alkohol
27. Oxalic acid
28. Metallic bismuth
29. Solut. succinate ammonia
30. Phosphorus
31. Oxymuriate potash
32. Oxymuriate mercury
33. Sulphuret ammonia
34. Solut. nitrate silver
35. Phosphuret lime
36. Nitrate copper
37. Muriate ammonia
38. Citric acid
39. Solut. nitrate mercury
40. Pure strontia
41. Pure barytes
42. Muriate cobalt
43. Acetic acid
44. Tinct. soap
45. Ammoniueret of copper
46. Solut. mur. gold.

In the drawer there are six stopper bottles, for the following articles:

47. Black flux
48. White flux
49. Dried borax
50. Glacial acid of phosphorus
51. Glass of borax, &c. &c.

Four tin cases for

Turmeric paper | Litmus paper | Brazil paper | Gall paper.

Also a drawer for scales and weights, graduated measure, funnel, knives,

pestle and mortar, microscope, blow-pipe, and other apparatus for chemical experiments, with a copy of the Chemical Guide.

Chest of Apparatus for Chemical Experiments.

CONTAINING A

Japan water bath	Glass tube	oxygen apparatus for entertaining experiments
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Two flasks	Set of air jars.	
	Set of hydrogen and	

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The Nobility and Gentry are most respectfully informed, that all the GASES used in Medicine, for the Restoration and Preservation of HEALTH, and for PHILOSOPHICAL PURPOSES, with Gasometers on improved Principles, for their application, accurately guaged, that Patients may dilute the Gases at their own Houses, agreeable to the Prescriptions of their Medical Attendants; are kept in constant readiness for sending out, on the shortest Notice, on moderate Terms, by MR. PAYNE, Pneumatic Chemist, No. 136, New Bond Street, (between Nos. 135 and 137, there being two Numbers 136,) where the different Gases are constantly administered with the most benign Effects. He begs leave to state, that from the increased Demands for the Medical Gases, for the Restoration of Health, particularly for Affections of the Lungs and Head, it is out of his Power to furnish Gases for Lectures at present, as he did at Shade's Concert Rooms, weekly, to 24th November last, and that when he can next make Gases for Lectures, he will do himself the Honour of announcing it expressly with his Name in this Gazette.

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There is a regular Establishment at No. 10. Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, for the Administration of those great and useful auxiliaries in aid of Medicine, "Electricity, and the Gases," superintended by Mr. James Price, Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, and late Surgeon in his Majesty's Service.

Mr. Price, assisted by Mr. Wright, Surgeon Aurist to her late Majesty, will speedily publish Two Essays, one on the improved Method of applying Electricity in Aid of Medicine and Surgery, and the other on the Benefits which may reasonably be expected from inhaling Vital Air and

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These two Branches of the Medical Profession, as far as their Application in Aid of Medicine, do not by any Means form Part of the Education of the Student; they are consequently not so generally understood, notwithstanding their Application is now very universally admitted and encouraged, particularly by those who are most eminent in the Profession.

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WOLLASTON and SON, Distillers and Importers of Wines and Spirits, Great Castle Street, Oxford Street, respectfully solicit attention to their present Prices, for prompt payment; and assuring their Friends and the Public of the supply of every article genuine, and of the choicest qualities, earnestly hope *for a continuance* of the patronage they most gratefully acknowledge.

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Tender their respectful thanks to the Faculty for the Encouragement which they have hitherto been honoured with, and take the present opportunity of submitting an amended list of the leading Articles manufactured and sold by them, pledging themselves to the good Quality of each. And the Prices affixed being so very considerably less than is usually charged by the Surgical Instrument Makers of the Metropolis; M. and Co. are induced to hope for an increased Patronage.

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Also Instruments, and every Article that can be required for Medical or Surgical purposes.

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They have the pleasure to say, that

the invention, which has lately been much improved, according to the kind suggestion of several Medical Gentlemen, is now recommended by the most eminent Members of the Faculty, both in England and France; and those Ladies and Gentlemen who have adopted them, speak in the highest terms of commendation of the comforts they afford, and the essential advantages they have received from them in cases of weakness of the Stomach, Relaxation of the Bowels and of the Back.

☞ *A Female attends Ladies.*

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The Patentees have the honour to supply the Army and Navy, the Naval and Military Hospitals, the Dock-yards and Ordnance, the Marine Infirmary, the Honourable East India Company, the City of London Truss Society, the Mary-le-Bone, Wiveliscombe, Bristol, and Denbigh Infirmaries, the Middlesex Hospital, &c. &c. &c.

Manufactory, 292, Strand, London; et à la Galerie du Palais Royale, No. 163, à Paris.

N.B. Persons residing in the country, sending the circumference of the body across the hips, may depend upon being accurately fitted.

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A full description, and mode of application of the above, is given in Dr. Reece's last edition of his Medical Guide.

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CAMPHOR LOZENGES, for Lowness of Spirits, &c.—These Lozenges are highly approved and confidently recommended for lowness of spirits, in inflammatory and febrile affections, and increased irritability of the nervous system; in the sick and nervous head-ache they will afford immediate relief: they are also an admirable preventive against infection, and the effects of damp weather, and in all cases where the Camphor Julep is advised, these Camphorated Lozenges are taken with superior advantage. They are prepared and sold by J. Shepherd, at his Warehouse for the True Ipecacuanha Lozenges, 176, Fleet-street, London, in bottles, 2s. 6d., 4s. 6d., and 10s. each.

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☞ These Essences give a most exquisite flavour to Soups of every description, and are used by Cooks of the first celebrity. When the soup is ready to be served up, a small quantity of the Essence most agreeable to the palate should be added *the last thing*, and the cover of the tureen be immediately put on to prevent the volatile parts from evaporating. Each stopper should be kept closed, by which the pungency of the flavour will be preserved in all climates; and thus, in a small compass, every family may possess a combination of ingredients for giving an agreeable zest to one of the most useful requisites of the table.

LEMON SPICE POWDER.

This new-invented POWDER consists of some of the choicest Spices, and is combined in such proportions, as not only to prevent the necessity of keeping a various assortment, but is always ready for immediate use, without the trouble of grating. It is a most valuable auxiliary to the Cook and Confectioner; and, indeed, a culinary requisite that no Housewife should ever be without. It gives an exquisite flavour to all kinds of Puddings, Pies, and Jellies; and is peculiarly gratifying to the palate of the Invalid in Gruel, Oatmeal, Rice, Sago, Arrow Root, and Tapioca; it also gives a delicious zest to Minced Veal, Hashes, Soups, and Broths; it is used by adding one teaspoonful, more or less, according to the taste; and if kept dry and well corked, will preserve its qualities for any length of time in all climates.

Prepared and sold by Joseph Kernot, Chemist and Druggist, Bear-street, Leicester-square, London.

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Mr. TAITE has great satisfaction in stating that his new Patent Braces, for supporting the Small Clothes, are acknowledged to be more pleasant to wear, and more effectual in their Object than any other Invention of the Sort, and also much cheaper. No. 228, Oxford-Street.

GAZETTE OF HEALTH.

No. 50. To FEBRUARY 1, 1820. Vol. V.

Of Dr. J. CARMICHAEL SMYTH,

Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, and Physician Extraordinary to the King.

This distinguished physician is a native of Fifeshire, in Scotland, where he possessed a handsome patrimonial inheritance. His early professional acquirements were the fruit of the Edinburgh School, at a period when it stood at its zenith in reputation, both on the part of teachers and pupils; and these, what may be termed properly national acquirements, he improved by an attendance on the London hospitals, &c. In 1764 he graduated at Edinburgh, after a six years' residence, on which occasion he wrote a Dissertation on Palsy, in which he introduced a short history of Medical Electricity, and its effects in exciting the energy of debilitated nerves, or paralytic limbs. In 1768, he settled in the metropolis, the intermediate years having been spent chiefly in London, and on the continent of Europe, where, equally animated by an enthusiasm for science, as well as professional improvement, he visited France, Italy, and Holland.

During his residence there, he became acquainted with a preparation of the Peruvian bark, which was then known only to his friend, the Count de Garray. To this preparation, termed by the Count, the essential salt of bark, he continued partial during the whole of his professional career, on account of its containing, in a concentrated state, its volatile and active properties in great perfection, and of its agreeing with nervous patients, whose stomachs would not bear any other preparation.

The first public appointment he held was that of Physician to the Middlesex Hospital, the important duties of which he discharged with equal zeal; and with talent equal, if not superior, to the first names who had preceded him. The high degree of credit he obtained among the governors and patients, introduced him to considerable private practice; and during his progress in public life, he lost no opportunity, as a literary character, of presenting to professional notice his opinions on a variety of interesting topics, with a view to medical improvement.

One of the most important of these, which seems to have long engaged his attention, was the means of preventing the progress of febrile contagion. To this subject he was particularly led by his situation as physician to the Middlesex Hospital, which obliged him to attend a district of the metropolis (the neighbourhood of St. Giles's) where contagious fever is often prevalent, and generally terminates fatally. The preventive power of the nitric acid gas he

accordingly fully ascertained and established. His experiments, made, by order of government, on board one of the prison ships, were satisfactory; and parliament, in requital of his services, voted him, on this occasion, a remuneration of 5000*l.* Since that time, however, the preventive means have been much simplified, but certainly not improved; and much additional light has been thrown on its nature and treatment in the valuable writings of the experienced and scientific Drs. Armstrong and Bateman.

That Dr. Smyth's professional abilities were highly estimated by the leading physicians of his day, is evident, by his advancement to the Fellowship of the Royal College; this supposed honour being only conferred on licentiates of correct behaviour, and distinguished character. For this rank, which is very sparingly given by this body of medical philosophers, Dr. Smyth was chiefly indebted to the late Sir George Baker, who was a good judge of merit and science in professional individuals.

Soon after this elevation he was appointed Physician Extraordinary to the King, an honour generally conferred on those who make a distinguished figure, and who are considered as standing at the head of their profession.

At an early period after settling in the metropolis, Dr. Smyth became somewhat independent by a matrimonial connexion; and, in consequence of this, for some years before his retiring, he confined himself to a select, rather than an indiscriminate, line of practice.

In the year 1802, on receiving the munificence of parliament for his discovery, which engaged him in a severe polemical dispute with several physicians, who endeavoured, on the one hand, to wrest it from him by a priority of claim; and on the other, by shewing its inefficacy, he gave up his professional pursuits, and went to the south of France, a sacrifice which his friends, from the state of his health at the time, thought absolutely necessary. Since his retirement he has published a small work on the Watery Head (*Hydrocephalus Internus*), which is the result of much experience and observation on the disease; and if it does not point out an actual cure of this formidable malady, it inculcates the necessity of attending to the early stage, by which its progress may be arrested. This work he dedicated to his friend the late Earl of Dartmouth, and published at the desire of that nobleman, betwixt whom and Dr. Smyth, the strictest intimacy had prevailed.

Dr. Smyth, it may be added, has been no less fortunate in his family, than in his various intercourse and connections in life. His daughter is married to Dr. Monro, the justly celebrated professor of anatomy in the University of Edinburgh; and his eldest son was raised in the army to be Aid-de-camp to the Prince Regent. Dr. Smyth is a Fellow of the Royal Society, and most of the other distinguished literary associations of the metropolis, of which he has not been a silent or inattentive member.

On the whole, Dr. Smyth is an instance how much correct behaviour, joined with literature and science, will give character in the world; and the *otium cum dignitate*, which he now enjoys in his country retreat, we consider the fair reward of an active and useful

life, employed for the best of purposes—the benefit of mankind, the improvement of his profession, and the interests of learning in general. Such is his character as a christian and physician, hat to the physicians of the present day, we would say, in the words of Scripture, " Go thou, and do likewise."

The author of " Authentic Memoirs of eminent Medical Men of Great Britain," in speaking of Dr. Smyth, observes, " The man who feels a real pride in his profession, and a just sense of its dignity and importance, will ever be zealous for its improvement. It has been the study of the present respectable individual, through a long and honourable career, to press on the public and professional attention many leading points of high interest in medical science."

SURGICAL OPERATIONS.—The scientific Surgeon Wardrop has lately communicated to the Medico-Chirurgical Society, of London, some interesting observations on a mode of performing operations on irritable or timid patients, which he has found to succeed in the case of a young woman, and which he thinks is applicable to other local diseases requiring the use of the knife. We give the particulars of the case nearly in his own words:—

A young woman, of a robust form, had a tumor on the orbiter plate of the left frontal bone, the base of which adhered firmly to the bone, whilst the exterior portion was attached to the integuments, in which there was a small sinus, leading into the interior of the tumor. The diseased mass did not exceed the bulk of an almond, but it was attended with great pain, and even cautiously touching the orifice of the sinus with a probe, excited violent irritation. A tumor had been extirpated from the seat of this swelling some months previously, a portion of which adhering to the bone, being left behind, gave origin to this new growth.

Though she had come from a distance, determined to get the disease removed by an operation, if it was considered advisable; yet when the scalper touched the integuments, she made a violent resistance. A second attempt was made, having previously secured her on a table, with numerous assistants; but such was the force and exertion she made to extricate herself whenever the operation was about to be begun, that every hope of success was abandoned. As the only resource, it then occurred to Mr. Wardrop, that if she would allow herself to be bled till she fainted, the tumor might be extirpated while she remained insensible. After a few days, she submitted to this measure, and a large vein was freely opened, while she sat in the erect posture, in a very warm room, in which there were seven people, with the doors and windows kept shut to hasten her fainting. No less than fifty ounces of blood were drawn before she fainted, and then a complete state of syncope came on, which lasted a sufficient time to allow the tumor to be removed.

With the assistance of Mr. Young, the operation was accomplished with great facility; and, in order to produce an exfoliation of the diseased portion of bone, its surface was rubbed over with pure potass. When the fainting went off, she would not believe that the operation had been performed, until she examined her face in a glass.

She suffered little from the effects of the operation, and though she remained pale and feeble for a few days, from the profuse bleeding, yet in a week she was better than most patients are, who have undergone so severe an operation; and she rapidly recovered her wonted strength, without in any way appearing to have suffered from the loss of blood.

The quantity of blood which was in this instance drawn, may to some appear enormous; but Mr. W. was emboldened to proceed to that extent, from having almost universally observed, that those patients recovered operations best, who lost the greatest quantity of blood; a fact strikingly illustrated after the battle of Waterloo, when it was found, that the wounded who were left in the field, and not taken into hospitals till the fourth and fifth day after the battle, recovered much sooner than those who were immediately attended to. This difference could only be accounted for, by the bleeding from the wounds being so extensive as to produce syncope; thus preventing inflammation and fever.

Nevertheless it has been his intention to recommend this mode of practice for *general* adoption. The result will shew, that, were circumstances equally urgent to suggest its employment, it may be ventured upon fearlessly.

When the object of bleeding is to occasion fainting, the patient should be placed in a chair erect; for in a horizontal position the quantity of blood that may be necessary to produce the effect, may so unload the sanguiferous system as to destroy life. This we have known to happen in a case where the patient was not able to sit up. In formidable operations, as the Cæsarian, amputation at the hip joint, or even amputation above the knee, such a measure might be attended with the most serious consequences. Some years ago, during a short residence in Chepstow, we were called upon to amputate above the knee joint. The surgeon who undertook the management of the tourniquet, instead of tightening it, as he was ordered, slackened it. The consequence was, a considerable loss of blood, but not to an extent as to induce fainting. The patient was, however, so much reduced by the loss, that the edges of the wound, instead of uniting on the first intention, became gangrenous and sloughed at the end of six weeks, when he should have been well; the bone protruded, and the end of the stump exhibited a great ulcerated surface. The life of the patient, in this case, was greatly endangered, and his recovery was delayed six months.

In local diseases of infants and children, requiring an operation to be performed with particular nicety, Mr. Wardrop recommends the body to be inclosed (except the diseased part), either in a bag or wooden case. In very young subjects, some such confinement of the limbs is necessary.

COW POX.—SirGilbert Blane, Bart. M.D. &c. has published "a statement of facts tending to establish an estimate of the true value and present state of vaccination." After a long series of reasoning on the primary object of the introduction of cow pox, by Drs. Jenner and Pearson, viz. the extirpation of small pox; Sir Gilbert gives the following description of small pox, subsequent to vaccination:—

"The invasion and eruption in every respect resembles that of the genuine small-pox. I have seen it attended with high fever, and a thick crowded crop of *papulæ*, such as precedes the most severe and dangerous cases of the confluent kind. This runs on till the fifth day from the eruption, both days included, at which time some of the *papulæ* begin to be converted into small sized pustules. The disorder then abruptly stops short. On the following day the fever is found to have subsided, with a shrivelling and desiccation of the eruption, and recovery proceeds without the least danger or inconvenience. The face is marked for some time after with brown spots, but without pits. It should never be forgotten, that all morbid *phenomena* are full of varieties and exceptions. Accordingly, though the fifth day is the most common limit of this disorder, it sometimes stops short on the third, sometimes not till the sixth or seventh; and, in a very few cases, it has been known to run the common course of small pox. What forms the strong line of distinction from proper small pox, is, that with a few exceptions, it does not proceed to maturation and secondary fever, which is the only period of danger." Sir Gilbert does not deny that death *may not* have occured in a few instances; nay, there seems, says he, sufficient evidence that it actually has; but, he thinks, these adverse cases are so rare, as not to form the shadow of an objection to the expediency of the general practice. A few weeks ago, at a meeting of the Medico-Chirurgical Society, at which forty members and visitors were present, Sir Gilbert put the question, whether any of these eminent and extensive practitioners had met with any fatal case of this kind. Two gentlemen had each seen a single case, and two other gentlemen took occasion to say, that they had each seen a case of second small pox, both of which proved fatal. It is evident, therefore, that according to that maxim which guides mankind in the conduct of life, namely, that of acting on a general rule and average, and not on exceptions, these adverse instances ought not to have much influence on practice, even though they were much more numerous.

"It is of the utmost consequence to establish the strong and important distinction between small pox, properly so called, and that which takes place after vaccination, which may be called the mitigated or five-day small pox; a few of the most impressive testimonies respecting the safe nature of the latter, may be here recited. Mr. Brown, of Musselburgh, gives the detail of forty-eight cases, in none of which did the secondary fever nor death occur. Here, probably, was at least a saving of eight lives, at the lowest computation; for this is the number which, by the average mortality of *natural* small pox, would have died, if the constitutions of these forty-eight persons had not been modified by previous vaccination. Dr. Dewar, of Edinburgh, hearing that many vaccinated subjects had been affected with small pox at Cupar, in Fife, where the natural small pox at the same time prevailed, he most laudably repaired to the spot to investigate the subject. He found that fifty-four vaccinated subjects had caught the small pox. All these, except one, had the mitigated or five-day eruptive fever, and lived. The

fatal case was that of a child, who had a complication of other disorders; and having died on the fifth day, the small pox, according to its ordinary course of fatality, could not of itself be the cause of death. All the rest were safe; while of sixteen cases of the natural small pox, at the same time and place, six died; so that if these fifty-three cases had not undergone the mitigating process of vaccination, nineteen or twenty would have perished. Between thirty and forty cases of the same kind have occurred at Carlisle, on the testimony of Dr. Barnes, a respectable practitioner of that city. Many proofs might be adduced from the oral testimony of private practitioners, which would overswell this article. The only other to be mentioned, is from the Report of the Central Committee of Vaccination, at Paris, made in December last, in which the description of the disease, occurring after vaccination, corresponds exactly with the mitigated five-day cases which have occurred in Britain.—They refuse the name of small pox to it, but, according to the testimony of others, that the matter from it does, by inoculation, give the small pox, we can hardly perhaps with propriety deny it that name; but it should be distinguished by some strong discriminating epithet, such as is suggested above.

"Now, let all this be applied to the case of a community, in which the total eradication of small pox is quite hopeless. Let it be admitted that such occurrences as have been described do frequently occur; let it even be admitted, for argument's sake, that every vaccinated case whatever, must, of necessity and unavoidably, at some time or other in future life, be affected with this mitigated species of small pox; would it not, even under this great abatement, be one of the greatest boons that could be conferred on humanity, as an instrument or remedy which would disarm small pox of its danger? The next greatest benefit to the total extirpation of small pox, would be the stripping it of its terrors, by rendering it safe and harmless.

"It may be further remarked, that the benefit derivable from the different proportions of the persons vaccinated to the total population, advances in a considerably higher progression, than the simple arithmetical. It is evident, that the smaller the relative number of the vaccinated, the greater their chance of meeting with small pox infection; and that, though the disease they may catch is of a mitigated nature, it would nevertheless be desirable to avoid it on its own account, but still more on account of the prejudice it creates. This, in the eye of general benevolence, constitutes an additional though secondary motive for extending the vaccine inoculation as widely as possible, even though the attainment of the *maximum* of total extirpation should be impracticable and hopeless. It is of the highest importance to Society that this subject should be seen in its true light, and in all its bearings; for the frequent occurrence of these cases of small pox, however safe in themselves, have had a most pernicious effect on the credulous and ignorant, by giving a check to the practice of vaccination. How many parents are there now who, from a weak distrust in the virtue of vaccination, have to lament the loss of a child from small pox, either casual or inocu-

lated? It is pleasing however to observe, that though this unmerited discredit into which vaccination had fallen swelled the number of deaths in London from small pox to 1051 in 1817, good sense is likely still to prevail; for the last year (1818) the deaths have fallen lower than ever they have been known since the institution of the bills of mortality, the total number being only 421."

On the whole matter, Sir Gilbert flatters himself that he speaks the language of every man of good principles and feelings, capable of reflecting seriously and considerably on the subject, "when I say," says he, "that whenever he applies his mind to it he finds some new and increasing cause of complacency and satisfaction. Viewed as a mere physical fact, in the natural history of the animal kingdom, the virtue of the vaccine virus in resisting the action of small pox, is, by its novelty and singularity, highly striking and interesting to every one whose taste leads him to take delight in contemplating and exploring the devious ways and varied forms of nature as curious exceptions to the uniformity and constancy of her laws. But the importance of this vanishes to nothing, when the unexampled benefits of it to mankind are fairly weighed,—benefits which never could have been dreamt of by the most sanguine philanthropist, who in contemplating it finds himself lost in astonishment at a boon to mankind almost beyond the grasp of his mind duly to appreciate. It will, in the eyes of future ages, be deemed an epoch in the destinies of the world, and one of the highest boasts of the country in which it took its rise, with a sense of unrequitable obligation to the individual who first disclosed and promulgated the secret, by drawing it from the dark recesses of rural tradition, and rendering it available to the whole human race."

"Such are the sentiments which must fill every well constituted mind, and it behoves the whole medical profession, which has already done itself so much honour by the zealous and disinterested encouragement afforded to it, to continue its efforts in eradicating every remaining prejudice against it. It becomes Englishmen in particular to foster it, not only as the native offspring of his country, of which he has reason to be proud, but to redeem the character of the nation from the reproach of having of all others, whether savage or civilized, done the least justice to the noble discovery.

"There is no country which has prized it less, nor availed itself of it so little. Have we not seen it adopted instantly in Peru, in consequence of a flash of conviction from the light of evidence; and have we not seen this conviction fully justified, by the immediate disappearance of small pox from that whole region? To those nations who may feel an envy of the glory attached to our country by this discovery, it must be no small consolation to perceive, that a large proportion of the English nation has hitherto been so besotted as not to know how to appreciate nor to avail itself of it, and that it has encountered more opposition among ourselves than in all the world besides."

Our readers will receive the above observations as coming from a practitioner certainly of great candour and judgment, who has been always friendly to vaccination. The reports we have received from

different parts of the country of the effects of vaccination, as a preventive and mitigation of small pox, are so very contradictory, that we are at a loss to give a decisive opinion respecting it. We must acknowledge that we read Sir Gilbert Blane's observations with pleasure.

WEN.—The medical profession is indebted to Mr. Coates, an experienced surgeon of Salisbury, for the following case of wen, cured by the application of a ligature to the superior thyroideal artery, recommended in one of our early numbers:

Dr. Grove, an eminent physician of Salisbury, having mentioned to Coates a case of an out-patient, of the Salisbury Infirmary, with a wen, which compressed the windpipe so considerably as to impede respiration, the superior thyroideal arteries being large and pulsating, suggested the possibility of their being tied with advantage. The patient, Elizabeth Spratt, aged seventeen, was in consequence admitted an in-patient. Her general health was extremely good.

It was agreed on consultation, that a ligature on the artery afforded the best chance of advantage to the patient. Accordingly, on the 29th of December, Mr. C. cut down on the left superior thyroideal artery; and having dissected it from its accompanying nerve, by means of a bent probe, he passed under the vessel a small round ligature, which was drawn moderately tight, and tied. She passed a tolerable night. The next day she complained of headache; and there was some swelling of the neck, and side of the head, with increased difficulty of swallowing, and some symptoms of fever.

The ligature separated on the ninth day, and the wound was completely healed on the fourteenth. Her breathing was much improved, and the size of the tumor reduced nearly half; and she was so materially benefitted, that she was discharged on the 14th of February quite well.

She was to have returned to the Infirmary, should any of her unpleasant symptoms have recurred; but Mr. C. presumes that the tumor has not increased, and that she remains so well, that she is unwilling to submit to any further operation.

RELAXATION OF THE RECTUM.—Mr. Chevalier, a surgeon of the metropolis, highly esteemed for sound judgment, has communicated to the Medico-Chirurgical Society, some valuable observations on the causes, &c. of debility and distension of the rectum, a common disease, particularly among aged females. *External* prolapsus of the rectum is a disease well known; but the *internal* prolapsus, from a falling down of the upper part of the rectum, has been, we believe, only noticed by Mr. Abernethy, in his lectures, till Mr. Chevalier published his observations on it. This complaint is often productive of very distressing symptoms, particularly after a motion; and is probably a common cause of the obstinate habitual costiveness, under which some persons continually labour, in consequence of diminished tone of the muscles connected with the rectum, and the great degree of extension it will, in that case, admit of, without occasioning irritation; for this part of the intestine is a reservoir for the fœces, as the bladder is for

the urine. It is, therefore, as Mr. Chevalier observes, of much consequence to the general health, that the sensibility of this important organ should remain unimpaired, and that strict attention should be paid to the regular performance of its functions. If the latter be long neglected, its natural sensibility becomes gradually diminished, it will remain over-distended for many days; the muscular fibres will, in a great measure, lose their contractile power, so that a more forcible exertion of the muscles more remotely connected with it, as the abdominal and the midriff, will be necessary to relieve the patient. In some instances, which Mr. Chevalier states are by no means rare, the lower part of the rectum becomes so frequently over-loaded, and its irritability, in consequence, so much diminished, that it becomes excessively dilated, and almost loses the power of contracting upon its contents: the natural consent between that and its upper portion, which is covered by the peritoneum, and remains undilated, is thus weakened, and further evil is induced. The superior portion of the rectum, and the lower part of the colon, become also overloaded, and the deficiency in the action of these parts calling forth a greater exertion of the abdominal muscles, &c. in the expulsion of the fœces, the upper undilated portion of the rectum is forced downwards into the lower and dilated portion, where it may be distinctly felt, like a loose bag, of which it is sometimes difficult to detect the aperture; a bogie being most likely to get entangled at the rim of the elongated fold, than to pass exactly *into* the continuation of the tube.

It is under these circumstances, says Mr. Chevalier, that the chief evils and perplexities of such cases begin. For the harmony of action between the upper and lower portions of the rectum being greatly diminished or destroyed, the stools, instead of being voided with that ease, and in that regular form and mass, which is usual in a healthy state of the parts, are expelled with difficulty, in small and irregular shapes.

The repeated efforts of the person sometimes excite tenesmus, piles, and an increased secretion of mucus from the inner surface of the intestine; in men, the irritation is often communicated to the prostate gland, and neck of the bladder. In other instances, and especially in females, the parts become so relaxed, as to allow of a sufficient accumulation of fœces to fill the whole pelvis; and how unconscious a patient may be of such an accumulation, the following case, to which others might be added, will sufficiently shew:

A lady, who was afflicted with cancer of the left breast, became affected with a severe pain in the loins, which confined her to bed. She soon afterwards became unable to pass her urine, which was drawn off at proper intervals. The state of her bowels was regularly inquired into, and she always replied, that the evacuations were small in quantity, but frequent, and upon the whole sufficient, and that this had been her ordinary habit for many years. After about a fortnight had elapsed in this way, her attendants noticed a peculiar appearance about the anus, which, on examination, was found dilated to the size of an half crown, by the protusion of fœces, which had so stuffed the rectum, as completely to choak up the pelvis; and al-

though not hardened, were incapable, from their quantity, of being removed, without the assistance of instruments.

Sometimes *hardened* fœces accumulate in a similar manner, and from their bulk, the person is not able to expel them without artificial aid; and yet that which is softer may pass over this lump in daily evacuations, and thus conceal the real mischief.

In more confirmed cases of the disease, and in persons of a sedentary habit, other bad consequences arise. The upper portion of the rectum being forced down, as has been described, by a half intus-susception upon the lower, becomes in time less competent to its own functions, and transmits the fœces irregularly. The lower portion of the colon participates in this difficulty, and is kept in a state of irritation. An obtuse heavy pain is felt in the lower part of the loins, and the region of the sacrum; and the difficulty and imperfection with which these stools are voided, often give rise to a suspicion, that there is a stricture formed in some part of the intestinal tube; and this suspicion, although entirely groundless, will be confirmed in the apprehension both of the patient and his attendant, if on making an examination with a bougie, its point should be arrested, as it is very likely to be, in the edge or fold of the semiprolapsed portion of the gut.

Under these circumstances, an increased secretion of mucus from the surface of the colon may take place to a considerable extent, so as to collect in some of its sacculated portions, and to be voided in a large quantity; and as it then has often a yellowish appearance, it seems as if an abscess had burst. But the matter is more tenacious than true pus; it is not mixed with blood; that degree of relief, and change from former feelings, which are always felt when an abscess breaks, is not experienced; the discharge does not go on regularly; it is seldom seen above twice or thrice, and then this symptom disappears. Mr. C. has, in several instances, known more than half a pint of this purulent-looking mucus so voided, and then there has been no more for several days, or but once, and in some instances it has not recurred at all. A circumstance of this nature is sure to attract the patient's attention; and if mild and demulcent aperients are given, and temporary symptoms properly treated, all goes off; and the patient becoming more vigilant over the state of his bowels than formerly, the parts affected may greatly recover their health and tone, and he may be better than he had been for a considerable time, before this occurrence took place.

The state of the rectum Mr. C. describes, is most common to females, and to persons, who from their habits, being generally sedentary, are more apt to overlook the irregularities of its action, and to defer obedience to the calls of nature. Under these circumstances, purgative medicines are mostly resorted to, and the whole intestinal canal is teased and pained, for the defective action of that very part of it which is most remote from their influence. The general health also often suffers; all the evils arising from costiveness taking place, and hypochondriacal dejection and gloom oppressing the mind.

In cases of this kind, the principal and most certain relief is to be obtained from the proper employment of glysters, the composition of which is to be regulated by circumstances. At first, those of a mild aperient nature should be preferred, and thrown up by a syringe; and these should be repeated, *after regular intervals*, so as to re-accustom the rectum to empty itself in an *habitual* way. Gruel, or the decoction of mallows, broth, or milk, with some honey, will answer the purpose very well; but more permanent good will be derived by using afterwards, the infusion of camomile, or the old decoction, for fomentations; which, by gently stimulating the torpid surface of the bowel, may bring on a proper contraction of its coats. Where the very lowest part of the rectum continues so dilated, as to allow the upper still to descend, from four to six ounces of a strong decoction of oak bark, or an infusion of galls, thrown up as gently as possible every night, will be attended with the most beneficial effects. If this be not readily retained, a little starch, or a few drops of tincture of opium, or both, may be added to it; and care should be taken at the same time, so to regulate the diet, and medical treatment, that the upper part of the intestinal tube may be excited to due action regularly, but not violently.

Should inflammation take place, which sometimes happens, at the prolapsed part, so as to consolidate the surfaces together, a permanent stricture or obstruction is formed, which, by the frequent irritation to which it must be unavoidably exposed, may take on a scirrhous character, and be productive of the most disastrous effects.

DISEASES OF THE POOR.—Dr. O'Brien has lately published a Report of the Diseases admitted into the Sick Poor Institution of Dublin, in the course of one year. As the article abounds with valuable *practical* information, we shall deviate a little from our plan, in giving it somewhat in detail. He commences with

Typhus, on account of its being the most prevalent. Although he believes in the contagious nature of this disease, he does not assent to the opinion, that contagion is its *only* source. If the disease was communicated by contagion only, the doctor observes, "we should be reduced to the necessity of supposing, that all contagious diseases were derived from Adam." The fact appears to be, according to the doctor's reasoning, that although infectious diseases chiefly propagate themselves by contagion, by which is meant not only actual contact of the sick, but the effluvium arising from the diseased body; they are also capable of being developed by different other poisons, either *external*, depending on a vitiated state of the atmosphere, or *internal*, depending on a vitiated state of the fluids of the body. The external agents are of so subtile a nature, as to elude the search of the chemist; for chemistry has long exerted her powers in vain, to detect them. The well-known effect of marsh effluvia, in producing ague or remittent fever, affords a palpable proof of the power of poisons floating in the atmosphere. Of the morbid secretions of the viscera, the doctor notices, vitiated bile as capable of exciting fever. It is, however, much to be doubted, whether such morbid secretions are not more

the effects than the causes of fever. Many fevers, not contagious in their origin, the doctor has found to become so on the decline; and to generate others of a much worse description than the original; and in this manner the epidemics in this country appear and spread. With respect to blood-letting, so much recommended by many respectable physicians in London, Dr. O'Brien observes, "Although an inflammation, or rather sub-inflammation, of different organs, frequently appears *in the progress* of this disease, yet in his opinion they are *never* to be considered the primary affection, but as secondary symptoms, the consequence of an unequal distribution of blood, produced by the primary disease. With respect to the brain, the organ most seriously and frequently affected, the doctor is of opinion, that its condition approaches more to apoplexy, from fulness of blood vessels, than to inflammation. The accumulation of blood being the consequence of debility of the blood vessels, the state of the brain, the doctor terms sub-inflammation. Blood-letting, therefore, unless where distinct symptoms of acute inflammation exists, ought to be employed only to palliate the symptoms arising from the unequal distribution of blood; but *never* as a specific cure of the disease, unless so far as the relief of predominating symptoms may contribute to the general effect. If a practitioner sets about curing the delirium attendant on typhus, as he would that attendant on inflammation of the brain, the doctor asserts, he will find that death will be the consequence of the large evacuation of blood, which are indispensable in the latter disease. There is certainly reason to fear, that an extravagant and injudicious use of this remedy may ultimately bring it into disrepute—a fate it has more than once experienced, as is evident from the history of medicine.

Dysentery.—This disease, which was very severe, Dr. O'Brien attributes to the bad quality of the bread, and other food. It appears to have been attended with much inflammatory excitement of the colon. The doctor very judiciously had recourse to blood-letting at the commencement, and directed it to be repeated if the pulse and pain indicated the continuance of inflammatory action. After this operation he prescribed a powder, composed of ten grains of Dover's powder, and one grain of calomel, to be taken two or three times a day. An aperient draught (infusion of senna and Epsom salt) was also given every second day. The bowels were also fomented, and the slipper bath and flannel rollers were also used in some cases; but the compound powder, noticed above, was found to give the most essential relief. This practice was judiciously proportioned to the nature of the disease.

Acute or Inflammatory Rheumatism.—In this disease, to which the poor in Ireland are very subject, Dr. O'Brien seems convinced that copious blood-letting is chiefly to be depended on; and the result of his experience, he thinks, justifies his recommending it to be pushed until it is evident the inflammation has subsided, by the absence of pain and fever. The period of convalescence is much shorter after this remedy than after purgative and sudorific medicines. With respect to the exhibition of the Peruvian bark in this disease,

so much extolled by Dr. Haygarth, Dr. O'Brien makes the following very just remarks:

"After much attention to its effects, it appears to me, that it is only when the acute fever has been subdued by evacuations, that the bark can be given in rheumatism, with any tolerable hope of success. Immediately after this has begun to abate, the bark will be found, in many instances, to produce a rapid cure. In the first stage of the acute rheumatism, or in chronic pains of any standing, I have seldom known it to do much good; though in the latter it will often give relief, and I believe has never done harm. In the sciatica and local pains of the hip and loins, turpentine has often given relief; but the medicine which I have used with the greatest success in these cases, is a combination of aloes, guaiacum, and essential oil of sassafras."

Inflammation of the Lungs.---Dr. O'Brien has met with more cases of this disease among males than females, which he attributes to their confinement within doors, and that peculiarity in the female economy, which, by unloading the system of blood-vessels, renders them less liable to inflammatory affections. By the following observations on inflammation of the lungs, it is evident the doctor has not been a superficial observer of the disease:

"It often happens that persons of lax fibre and delicate constitution, are attacked with inflammation of the lungs; and in such, effusion into the cavities of the chest, or the air cells of the lungs, very rapidly takes place, unless blood-letting be immediately resorted to. When cases of this kind occur, and they are unfortunately very frequent, blood-letting will never afford any thing but temporary relief to the symptoms, which will generally again return with aggravated violence. This arises from the debility produced by venesection, inducing a further relaxation of the exhalants, and favouring that effusion which has already commenced. Elderly persons, and even the middle-aged in the poorer ranks, are very apt to fall into this state of disease, because the life of toil and distress which they lead, generally brings on a premature old age and debility. In those cases, blisters and expectorants are the remedies most likely to give relief. I generally direct a pill, composed of one grain of squill, and one grain of calomel, twice a day, with blisters in succession to the breast, sides, and back; a pectoral mixture, consisting of the decoction of line seed and squill, or ipecacuanha, with tincture of fox-glove, is at the same time directed. In those cases where stimulants of a diaphoretic quality seem to be demanded, the camphor mixture is joined to the above."

Cholera Morbus.—The poor of Ireland are liable to this disease at all seasons, but more especially during autumn. Dr. O'Brien ascribes its frequency to excessive intoxication. The doctor considers it merely as an effort of nature to avert some impending disease. When the symptoms were violent, he prescribes small doses of laudanum. When patients were exhausted by the disease to the utmost debility, with a pulse scarcely perceptible, and a voice scarcely audible, they were often restored in a few hours, by repeated doses of laudanum. He asserts, that by this disease he did not lose a patient.

Indigestion.—Although Dr. O'Brien found this complaint frequently to exist as a primary disease, from slight inflammation and thickening of the coats of the stomach, which he has detected on dissection, with ulceration, or erosion, he considers it to be in general symptomatic of some diseased condition of the viscera, in the neighbourhood of the stomach, particularly the liver.—He attributes the frequent occurrence of this complaint to the disgraceful habit of drinking ardent spirits. He is however convinced the quality of the food has also some effect in producing it. Indigestion of the poor and the rich, he thinks often arises from induration of the liver, and that to the same cause may be attributed the numerous instances of dropsy among the poor.

The plan of treatment the doctor has found most successful, confirms his suspicions of its nature.—He prescribed one of the following pills, to be taken twice a day, till the gums were slightly affected.

Take of Compound Myrrh Pill, 36 grains,
Blue Pill, 24 grains.
Mix well together, and divide into 12 pills.

He also ordered a draught composed of the compound infusion of gentian, carbonate of soda, and a little rhubarb, to be taken three times a day.

Dropsy.—Small doses of fox-glove, blisters, and small bleeding from the arm, the doctor found to succeed best in this disease.—He also speaks in high terms of approbation, of the *tartrite* of iron.

Green Sickness.—The remedies he has found most successful in this disease, are the compound myrrh pill, with a small proportion of the sulphate of iron (as the ecphractic pill of the Edinburgh Pharmacopœia) with a brisk aloetic purge, as occasion may require, and the madder powder. On the latter article the doctor observes, "The Rubea tinctorum (madder) which has fallen into disuse, I have lately tried with success in two instances, which resisted the remedies above mentioned. It was given in such quantity as to produce a strong purgative effect." Camomile flowers, recommended by Dr. Heberden, he has found to succeed in one obstinate case, after other powerful remedies had failed.

Scald Head.—In this disease, Dr. O'Brien has found tar ointment more beneficial than any other remedy.

DEAFNESS.—Mr. Henry Earle, Surgeon to the Foundling Hospital, &c. lately met with a case of deafness, which has induced him to lament, that diseases of the ear have been so long and generally neglected by the profession at large. From a proper application of the improvements which have taken place in modern surgery, to the treatment of diseases of the organ of hearing, he thinks some benefit may be derived, and *perhaps*, some affections of the internal organ, hitherto considered incurable, may be arrested in their progress by the early adoption of the most active and powerful measures. Should his hopes of success in this department of surgery prove fallacious, he thinks that he or his brethren may be able to discover causes of deafness in the external ear and cavity of the tympanum, which have not hitherto been described. We would

recommend this gentleman to read with attention, the work on the cause of deafness, lately published by Mr. Wright, an eminent surgeon-aurist; and his treatise on nervous deafness, which we understand will soon appear. We shall give the case to which Mr. Earle alludes, in the words in which he related it to a meeting of the Medico-chirurgical Society; and his observations, which are very ingenious, and, in a practical point of view, do him much credit.

"In the early part of 1816, Mr. Fan, ensign in his Majesty's service, called to ask my opinion respecting a complaint in his ears, of which he gave the following account:—

"That from childhood he had been occasionally liable to attacks of inflammation in the external ear, accompanied with heat, excoriation, and a copious thin discharge from the passage, which affected his hearing, more or less, for several weeks, but left no considerable permanent deafness behind. About ten months before his application to me, he had been exposed to damp, and in consequence, suffered a very severe renewal of the same disease, which so nearly deprived him of the power of hearing, as to oblige him to leave his regiment, then quartered in Ireland, in pursuit of further advice; with an understanding, that unless he could obtain some relief, it would be necessary for him to quit the service, as he was quite incapacitated from active duty, by not being able to hear the word of command.

"On examination, I found the meatus of either ear much narrowed in its calibre, by the thickening of the surrounding parts; and especially the great increased density of the cuticle, which had a very white appearance, and was moistened by a thin discharge, resembling rennet whey, that deposited a substance not unlike small portions of curd. On washing this away, and dilating the passage with a little instrument which I had constructed for the purpose of examining the external meatus, there was not the slightest appearance of wax, but the same white thickened cuticle appeared to extend as far as the eye could reach.

"The sense of hearing was nearly lost, but a watch applied to the teeth or forehead was distinctly audible; a circumstance which convinced me that there was no defect in the auditory nerves. On throwing in water with considerable force, a dull obtuse sound was produced, as if some dense medium was interposed. This led me to imagine, that it was possible, that the deafness depended either on a thickened state of the cuticle reflected over the membrana tympani, similar to that which lined the meatus; or on some morbid secretion existing between this cuticular layer and the membrane. This idea was strengthened by passing down a probe to the bottom of the meatus, which conveyed a sensation to the touch different from that which would have been produced by the contact of a healthy membrane; whilst at the same time it did not cause that painful sensation usually expressed by the patient in these circumstances. After a little reflection, and entertaining this view of the subject, I thought myself warranted in attempting the removal of the whole cuticular lining of the meatus externus. I hesitated less in making this experiment, as all common remedies had been re-

sorted to in vain, and the case appeared almost hopeless, unless some new mode of treatment could be devised. To effect this removal, I had recourse to the nitrate of silver, which I had often found beneficial in causing exfoliations of thickened cuticle from the feet, producing what are commonly termed corns. I threw it in with a silver syringe, in a very strong solution, and completely blackened the surface of the meatus.

"In a few days I began to syringe with warm water, conceiving that maceration would contribute to the speedy separation of the exfoliations. After persevering for several days, for a considerable time each day, it began to be detached in small portions at first; but subsequently in larger pieces, one of which, from its form, was very evidently the reflected layer of the membrana tympani. The next syringe-full I threw in, occasioned to the patient a very distressing sensation and loud sound. His hearing from this time was greatly improved, but still rather confused. The other ear was treated in the same way with similar success. In a few days the hearing was very nearly restored.

"From the time of the separation of the cuticle, the treatment consisted in the application of an ointment composed of four drachms of nitrated quicksilver ointment, three drachms of spermaceti cerate, and one drachm of olive oil. He was directed to introduce a little of this, night and morning, with a camel-hair pencil; this was recommended with a view to promote a secretion of wax. Blisters were also directed to be applied behind the ears, and to be kept open for some time, with the same intention. Soon after this, he returned to join his regiment, and I lost sight of him until very lately, when I had the pleasure of seeing him perfectly well; and he informed me that he had never experienced the slightest return of his complaint, and could hear as well as he had ever done in his life. On examining his ears, I found that a secretion of wax had taken place, and the lining of the meatus had a perfectly healthy appearance.

"This very favourable result induced me to consider the subject, and to examine most of the authors who have treated of diseases of the ear; from their silence on the subject, I am inclined to think this peculiar affection has escaped their observation. Mr. Saunders, indeed, in speaking of the herpetic ulceration of the external meatus, mentions that it is accompanied with thickening of the lining, but does not seem to have suspected that a similar affection might extend to the reflected portion which covers the membrane; a state which must, more or less, impede the functions of that part, and, if suffered to increase, would probably terminate in permanent and complete deafness. On the ground then of its novelty, and from a wish to have the subject further investigated, I have ventured to bring this case before the society; though I am well aware, that insulated facts are rarely deserving the attention of the public, and ought at all times to be received with caution.

The cause of this thickened state of the cuticle, Mr. Earle thinks, may be traced to the thin ichorous discharge which takes place in the room of the healthy wax. It is well known, says he, that

cuticle, in common with other substances, possessing the same properties as the hoofs of animals, is liable to imbibe moisture, by which it becomes thickened, loses its transparency, is thrown into folds, and assumes a white colour. This fact is familiarly known to occur in the hands of washer-women, and when poultices have been applied for any time. Whilst this rugous state exists, the sense of touch is rendered very imperfect; but this appearance is soon lost on the evaporation of the moisture, and the cuticle resumes its former characters and functions. There is always, however, a separation of a whitish curdly substance, which, on becoming dry, assumes the appearance of a powder, having a greyish tint, similar to that produced by scraping the cuticle with a knife.

"In the case now under consideration," Mr. E. observes, "I believe that, by the continued application of moisture, the whole cuticle was thickened, and rendered opaque. Under such circumstances, it is easy to comprehend to what an extent the sense of hearing must have been impaired, as those minute and delicate vibrations of the membrana tympani, which convey the undulations of the surrounding elastic medium to the internal ear, must have been greatly impeded, if not wholly prevented."

Mr. Earle also related the following case;—"A gentleman once requested me to examine his ears, in consequence of a deafness which he had laboured under for some time. The symptoms he described, very much resembled those usually attending an inspissation of the wax. On examination he found the whole passage choked up with numerous scales, closely impacted together by a morbid secretion of wax. He had, from childhood, been subject to a leprous affection of the skin, which had, latterly, never entirely left him, and at times spread over nearly the whole surface of the body. With some difficulty the passage was cleared of its contents. He was directed to syringe the ear every morning with a decoction of bran or barley-water, and to besmear the surface with an ointment consisting of equal parts of zinc ointment, nitrated quicksilver ointment, and spermaceti cerate. He likewise recommended him to take a strong decoction of sarsaparilla, with a few drops of a solution of the oxymuriate of mercury. Under this treatment, his general health improved much, and his cutaneous affection was mitigated. By persevering in the use of the syringe and the ointment, his hearing was nearly restored.

INFLAMMATION.—Mr. Bellot, a respectable surgeon of Manchester, has lately published the following case, to illustrate the beneficial effects of dividing an injured part. After examining the bowels of a dead subject, Mr. B. felt a smarting pain at the end of the fore fingers. The next morning some slight inflammation was perceived just above the nail of each fore finger; but as there was no wound upon the fingers previously, nor any made during the inspection, nothing serious was apprehended from the inflammation, which kept increasing with great pain. On the second day, cooling applications were used; and in the evening immersion in warm water was continued from six o'clock till ten, when the pain had almost subsided; and some sleep was obtained from eleven till

two. The pain now began to increase again, and continued severe the day and night following. On the Sunday, as the inflammation was rapidly advancing, it occurred to him, that if an incision was made across the inflamed fingers, a stop might be put to its further progress. This was determined upon, and the operation performed upon one finger in the evening, and some leeches applied to the other. Poultices were applied to both. That which was operated upon became much easier in an hour; in the other there was little or no abatement of pain. The next day, being the fifth, the inflammation had got to the wrist. The pain had now subsided in the finger first operated upon. In the evening the same operation was performed upon the other. The incision was made through the skin, a little above the nails, across the parts where the pain and tension were the greatest. This was attended with the same success as the former; and in the morning following, the inflammation at the wrist was nearly gone. Poultices were continued, and nothing very unfavourable took place afterwards, though the wounds continued in a very irritable state some time, and matter continued forming under the scarf skin, in the neighbourhood of the incisions. In the course of a little time the fingers were completely healed. In this case it may be doubtful, whether there was absorption of matter, or whether the inflammation was produced by the acrid matter irritating the skin, together with forcibly using the ends of the fingers instead of the knife. From whatever cause the inflammation was produced, there is no doubt of the success of the operation. Incision is strongly recommended by Richter, and others, in whitloe; and the medical gentleman who is the subject of this case, has since had two or three cases of whitloe, where matter had just formed. Incisions were made in these cases, affording speedy relief from severe pain, and the fingers saved from carious bone, and destruction of the tendons. Incision in cases of incipient whitloe, is certainly not a new practice. It was recommended by Mr. Abernethy twenty-five years ago, and long before, by the late Mr. Pott.

MANIA.—Mr. Hamilton, of Ipswich, has published a few cases by way of illustrating the efficacy of *copious* blood-letting in the cure of mania. They are so similar in their commencement and progress, that it is only necessary to give one. This we shall do in his own words:—

"James B——, aged 36, a tall athletic man, of dark complexion, by trade a shipwright, and *now out of employ*, began, about the 1st of November, to shew evident symptoms of a return of the complaint with which he had been affected for near six months, about five years ago. He was now all gloom and melancholy, and bent on self-destruction; harrassed by religious phantoms; and seeking every opportunity of eluding the vigilance of his keeper. In this state, with a pulse *nearly natural*, and *no apparent* bodily indisposition, he was bled, on the 6th, to the quantity of twenty-four ounces, which produced little effect; had his hair removed, and head kept constantly wetted; drank plentifully of Epsom salt, with manna, so as to keep the bowels open, &c. On the next day, twelve leeches were applied

to the temples, as there was no abatement of the symptoms. 8th, continued much the same, except rather more violent, requiring to be quite tied down. Twenty ounces of blood were taken from the jugular vein. On the 9th, and on the 10th, sixteen more leeches were applied to the temples, and a perpetual blister to the neck, with savine ointment, which discharged well. He had also pills of calomel and scammony twice a day, so that a constant irritation was kept on the bowels, producing three or four evacuations daily. Notwithstanding this and the most spare diet (being only tea and gruel), there appeared little or no abatement in the disorder, and the pulse was generally now about 100. This determined me, on the 12th, to take away a still larger quantity of blood from the head, as the seat of the complaint still laid there, and his strength appeared but little reduced by the former bleedings. About twenty-four ounces were therefore taken from the neck, when syncope ensued, and he continued very low the remainder of the day; and, having taken twenty grains of James's powder at bed-time, obtained some sleep in the night, for the first time since the attack. On the 13th he was very low, but gave rational answers, and was much more composed: was now allowed some wine and water; and tartarized mercurial ointment rubbed well in all over his head and inside the thighs twice a day. 16th, continues composed, sits up several hours a day, and now complains much of the effects of the mercury on the gums, which is omitted; the blister on the neck still discharging well.

" *18th.* From this period he required no farther medical attention than the change of air in the country, and a restricted diet; is quite composed, and takes gentle exercise."

Mr. Hamilton states, that he was induced to adopt this treatment in consequence of reading the case communicated by Dr. Parkinson, on which we made some remarks in a late number. Now Dr. Parkinson's patient was affected with inflammatory fever, and there was a considerable degree of inflammatory excitement of the brain. The case related by Mr. H. was, on the contrary, a passive affection.

In publishing the case, Mr. Hamilton declares his only object is, " to show that practitioners are not to look so much to the *quantity* of blood withdrawn from the patient, as to the effect produced on the constitution in the commencement in cases of this description; as there can be no doubt of the nature and seat of the disease, which, by running an uncontrolled course, will produce either organic disease of the brain, or effusion of serum, entailing a continuance of the disorder, without affording another opportunity of subduing it.

STONE IN THE BLADDER.—The following case, demonstrating the solvent properties of the sub-carbonate of soda, in a case of stone in the bladder, recently occurred in the practice of Mr. Sutliffe, of London:—

" Mr. F. W., at the west end of the town, having, for a considerable time past, laboured under complaints of the kidneys and bladder, resorted to a vast variety of means, without deriving any important relief. During the few last months, he took large quantities of sub-carbonate of soda; and although much stony matter

was evacuated, he became impatient to have it extracted, which was in a few days afterwards done.

Mr. S. received the different portions of the calculus, and such was the character of the offending matter, that a considerable part appeared to be corroded by a solvent, so as to be broken down with great facility. Other portions of its calculous basis lodged in cysts, were hard, and could not be tangible by the solvent; but had an equal exposure to its influence been attainable, Mr. S. is persuaded that the necessity for the operation would have been superseded.

DIABETES.—Dr. Dessaix, of Paris, informs us, that by a tonic medicine (the infusion of the rhatany root, or *pale* Peruvian bark, and tincture of cardamoms) the occasional use of a tonic purgative (the rhubarb) and a total abstinence from fermented liquors and vegetable productions, he never fails to cure this disease. This practice is similar to that recommended by the late Dr. Rolls and Dr. Latham.

TYPHUS FEVER.—Mr. Terry, a surgeon of Leyburn, in Yorkshire, has communicated some observations on this fever, as it appeared in a village of Yorkshire, to prove that it does not always occur, as stated by some writers, in large crowded towns, or narrow dirty streets; and that it is really contagious. In August, 1818, an Irish regiment, in passing through his village, left a soldier afflicted with typhus fever, who soon fell a sacrifice to it. Since that time, the place and neighbourhood have not been entirely free from it. It had been previously very healthy, being open, and lying on lime stone. Latterly, the disease has extended itself to the adjoining villages. At Wensby, a mile distant, it has been more fatal. Mr. Terry adds, "I have seen most of the remedies recommended for the last few years, fully and fairly tried. I have seen *all* succeed, and *all* fail. I always bleed on the onset, when the patient complains of much pain, wherever situated; then I open the bowels very freely with calomel and jalap, which in some cases put an end to the disease; if not, calomel and opium, at bed-time, and saline, with antimoniala, during the day." He observed, that the seasons had no influence on the disease. This account is at any rate strong evidence in favour of the contagious nature of the disease.

HYDROPHOBIA.—Dr. R. Pearson, of Coldfield, near Birmingham, when reflecting on the powerful and almost instantaneous effect produced on the living body, by the injection of medicinal substances into a vein, the idea struck him forcibly, that this method of introducing a remedy into the system might be beneficial in hydrophobia, when exhibition by the mouth or clysterwise is impracticable. The doctor thinks, *no physician* can hesitate to adopt this measure under such circumstances, because it is constantly practised upon diseased horses at the veterinary institution in Copenhagen; and it is remarked by the author of a valuable work, on Physiology, that it might be advantageously employed in medical practice in some urgent and difficult cases, in which the ordinary means of relief have proved unavailing. With Dr. R. Pearson the only question is, what kind of medical substances

should be employed in this way, in hydrophobia? He proposes narcotics and antispasmodics; among the former, he mentions opium, extract of henbane, and the extract of the deadly nightshade, dissolved in water; among the latter, watery solution of subcarbonate of ammonia, (smelling salt) watery infusion of ipecacuan root, &c.—all of a blood-warm temperature. The doctor recommends practitioners to proceed with caution, in regard to the *quantity* of any of the above-mentioned substances.—"Suppose," says he, "at the first, that one half as much were to be employed, as is usually given by the mouth. After waiting some minutes to see the effect, the same, or a double dose, may be repeated according to circumstances. The quantity of warm water, in which the medicines are dissolved, for this purpose, should perhaps not exceed two drachms." The doctor supposes, that by injecting a narcotic and antispasmodic into a vein in a case of hydrophobia, the spasms which prevent swallowing may be subdued; and that the moment this is attained, the disease will cease to be intractable; that it will, in fact, be reduced to a level with other diseases; and thus an opportunity is gained to administer remedies, both liquid and solid, in the usual way. The doctor concludes his paper with the important information, that his medical friends are giving their *attention* to his plan of treatment, and that he himself may soon have an opportunity of putting it to the test of experience, several persons in his neighbourhood having recently been bitten by a mad dog. Now as this learned physician had such a prospect of giving his plan of treatment a trial, we think he might have postponed the publication of his "striking idea," till he was enabled to speak of its effects.

The narcotics and antispasmodics noticed by the doctor, have uniformly excited general irritation and spasms on being introduced into a vein. The brain and nervous system in hydrophobia, are in a most morbid state of excitement; and in such cases what would be the consequence of an injection of a solution of subcarbonate of ammonia into a vein? Would it not inflame the whole sanguiferous system, and by accelerating the circulation, increase the malady? Might not such a measure produce as distressing an effect on the body, as the hydrophobic poison? Before he ventures to adopt this mode of treatment, we advise him to make the experiment on himself. He may proceed cautiously, by commencing with such articles as are not likely to excite irritation in the vessels through which they pass. He might begin with some mild animal substance, as the brain; this would at any rate be a novel experiment, and might increase the quantity of some organ or part of the body that might be in a state of decline or debility; besides, it is an article of which many theoretical writers stand in great need. He might afterwards proceed to the use of the narcotic and antispasmodic remedies. In adopting a new practice, a man should proceed on something like a plausible principle. The injection of water of the same temperature as the blood into a vein, having always excited considerable fever and delirium, we are really at a loss to conjecture on what principle the doctor proposes to introduce so powerful a stimulant

as the subcarbonate of ammonia into vessels so peculiarly irritable as the veins, and that too in a disease, in which the brain and nerves are in as high a state of excitement as they can possibly sustain.

No remedy is more likely to prove beneficial in hydrophobia than the Prussic acid, from its powerful direct anodyne effect on the seat of the disease. From the exhibition of this article, copious bleeding, and the constant application of a spirituous lotion to the scalp by means of a napkin, much may be expected. We recommend Dr. R. Pearson to give this treatment a trial, in case the disease should appear in his neighbourhood.

GALVANISM.—(*Dr. De Sanctis's Letter to Professor Aldini, continued from page* 360.)—"Instead of continuing the description of the contents of the chest, which I had commenced in my last communication, I subjoin a copy of the little work I have since published, in the plates of which they are sufficiently explained. The work exhibits a new plan for restoring persons from a state of suspended animation.

"DIRECTIONS, *&c. &c.*—In every case of suspended animation, endeavour, as soon as possible, to restore the functions of the lungs and heart. To accomplish this, extend the body of the patient either on the movable back of the re-animation-chair (see the plates), and fix it there with bandages; or on a convenient table, should the chair not be at hand. The position, in which the body is to be placed, is an important consideration. The head and shoulders should be somewhat raised. Having placed the body in the best and most convenient posture, introduce the flexible metallic tube into the stomach, and fix it properly by means of the elastic regulator. Pass also the silver tube into the larynx, and close the mouth perfectly with the coated plate and its appendages. Close also the nostrils with the forceps, and the ears with cotton. Adjust the box-bellows to the tube placed in the larynx, and alternately force the air into, and withdraw it from, the lungs: the latter operation may be effected by pressure on the chest and upper part of the abdomen.

"Whilst employed in these operations, an assistant should be preparing the pensile galvanic pile, as hereafter directed; and having attached it to the top of the chair, one of the wires must be applied to the tube passed down the gullet, whilst the other is to be successively made to touch different parts of the external surface of the body, particularly about the regions of the heart, of the diaphragm and of the stomach, during the inflation of the lungs; then of the neck, describing the course of the parvagum or eighth pair of nerves, along the course of the spine, &c.

"Let the globe, filled with æther or any other stimulating fluid that may be thought proper, be fixed to the tube in the gullet, and warmed by means of the spirit-lamp, which may be lighted by the *ignitor* in the chest, which also contains lancets, ribbands, &c. in case of being required.

"As soon as natural respiration is observed to take place, remove the coated plate, regulator, tubes, &c., but continue to apply galva-

nism and warmth, aided by gentle frictions of the whole of the body, until the pulse, at the wrist, shall become perceptible, and of sufficient strength to maintain its action.

"*Management of the Pensile Galvanic Pile**.—The plates, composing the pile, being properly arranged, mix nitric acid and water in the glass tube, in the proportion of from one to two or even three fifths of acid, according to the state of the atmosphere. The nitric acid is preferable to the muriatic, as it produces a more powerful effect. Having introduced the needle through the small glass tube, press the plates closely together, and then immerse the pile in the bath; move it up and down in the solution, from ten to thirty seconds, according to the strength of the fluid; remove it, dry it carefully with a linen cloth, press the plates closely together, and give it to an assistant to hold. Dip a finger of each hand into the solution, and then ascertain the force of the pile. Should it be found of sufficient strength, fix the conducting wires at whatever height you think proper, and add pieces of moistened linen to their ends; dip some cotton into the same liquid, and apply it to those parts of the patient which are to complete the circle; then galvanize either by current or by shocks, at such distances of time as the case may appear to demand.

"Should it be necessary to continue this process for any longer time than the strength of the pile remains (say half an hour), the pile must be again immersed in the acid solution, taking the precaution of previously plunging it into pure water and then wiping it dry.

"The use of the pile being finished, cut the knot of the string which connects the plates, unstring them and the cloths, and wash them well in clean water: dry the latter on blotting paper before the fire, the former by means of a linen cloth; after which polish them with the rubber on fine emery paper; then wax the silken-twist, knot it, and string the plates as before; taking care that the zinc is the uppermost. Should there be more than one pile employed, the same attention must be paid to them in their connexion and arrangement with the chief pile.

"In other cases than those of suspended animation, the pile may

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* A representation of the apparatus, &c. with explanations, &c. will be given in the next Number. The portable pensile galvanic pile is made by Mr. Charles Massi, No. 2, Vittoria Place, Duke's Row, Tavistock Square. Price one guinea with the tin tube only: 25*s.* with the tin and glass tubes; the latter ones are safer if nitric acid is to be employed. When the tin tubes are employed, the cover of the bottle will serve for a measure; it is graduated into a fifth. The glass tube is also graduated for the same purpose. The depôt of the instrument is at No. 171, Piccadilly.

Dr. De Sanctis will be happy to give to any professional purchaser of the instrument, more particular information as to the mode of using it, any Thursday, between the hours of two and four o'clock, at Mr. Massi's.

(having first disposed different coated wires at various heights of the column) be enclosed in a glass vessel to avoid any inconvenience from the acid fumes.

"The silken-twist and the cloths require to be frequently changed, particularly after having been immersed in a powerful acid solution. Care must be taken that the holes of the plates are *completely* filled up by the silken-twist."

PRESCRIPTIONS.

ULCER, &c.—A scientific gentleman in the country informs us, that he has found the lotion made according to the following recipe, very beneficial in cases of ulcers and sore legs of poor people. It has also succeeded (applied warm) in curing a fistulous ulcer.

Take of Green Vitriol, three quarters of an ounce;
Alum, half an ounce;
Verdigrise, half a drachm;
Crude Sal Ammoniac, two scruples:

after reducing them to powder, put them into a new glazed pipkin, holding about a quart. Set it upon a slow fire, and increase by degrees, till the ingredients boil up nearly to the top two or three times. Then take it from the fire and set it to cool. Break the pipkin to get the stone out. Stir them round all the time they are on the fire with a lath. The dust and the smoke should not come near the eyes, nose or mouth. Put a piece of the stone, the size of a walnut, to a quart bottle of soft water. To use.—Shake the bottle and wet a piece of fine linen four times doubled. Lay it upon a new burn, cut, or strain, The linen should always be wet with it. For this receipt, the late king of France gave ten thousand louis-dors, after it had been approved of in his hospitals.

Anodyne Plaister.

The late Dr. Clarke, of Burlington Street, frequently ordered the following plaister, instead of that of the College, to be applied over the bowels of infants, in case of griping and inflammatory excitement of the intestines:—

Take of compound plaister of Laudanum, one ounce and a half;
Diachylon plaister, two drachms;
Purified Opium, one drachm;
Oil of Peppermint, one drachm;
Camphor, one drachm. Mix for a plaister.

Aperient Antibilous Pills.

Take of the Compound extract of Colocynth, three drachms & a-half;
Calomel;
Antimonial Powder, of each fifteen grains:
Gamboge, powdered, half a drachm;
Oil of Cloves, fifteen drops.

Mix well together, and divide into sixty pills, two or three to be taken occasionally. C. B.

Dr. Whyte's Tincture of Bark.

This tincture, which is held in great estimation by some practitioners, as a stomachic medicine, is made according to the following prescription:

Take of Peruvian Bark, coarsely powdered, four ounces;
Gentian Root,
Orange Peel, of each one ounce;
Brandy, two pints. Macerate for a month. C. B.

CHILBLAINS.---The following embrocation for chilblains is much recommended by an intelligent correspondent:

Take of Vinegar,
Proof Spirit, of each half a pint;
Alum, two drachms. Mix.

To be applied every night and morning. C. B.

Mustard Liniment.

Take of Mustard seeds, one pound;
Oil of Turpentine, two ditto;
Camphor, four ounces;

This liniment a correspondent supposes to be similar to Whitehead's essence of mustard, recommended for rheumatism, chilblains, &c. W. B.

Gout Tincture.

Take of Compound Tincture of Rhubarb, seven ounces;
——————————Senna, eight ounces;
——————————Ginger, one ounce.

Mix. One or two table-spoonsful to be taken occasionally. A correspondent recommends this composition to gouty subjects, whose bowels are not properly relieved every day. C. B.

TYPHUS FEVER.—"Sirs,---I received much pleasure on reading your account in the last number, of the successful treatment of typhus fever, by Surgeon Collingwood, by means of mild purgatives, because his views appear to coincide, in a great measure, with my own on that head; for I have pursued a very similar treatment, with almost invariable success, during the last four years. In the latter part of the wet summer of 1816, this fever prevailed much amongst the lower orders in this neighbourhood, attended with very great dejection of spirits, frequent sighing, subsultus tendinum, in some few cases petechial spots, and the other usual symptoms; in short, during the autumn of that year, and the following wet summer and autumn of 1817, modified, I apprehend, by the moist state of the earth, it partook much of the diagnostics of typhus gravior, a fever held by Cullen, Brown, Hunter, Fothergill, and others, as a disease of direct debility. From the fœtid and dark appearance of the fæces, I was induced, at the first approach of the epidemic, to give the sulphate of magnesia in the senna infusion, in most cases, but with that degree of caution, which experience soon taught me the case did not absolutely merit. I soon became emboldened; for instead of the purgatives causing debility, my patients really became refreshed; at every repeated visit I found them far improved; de-

jection no longer apparent, but with a pleasing prospect of a speedy return to health. The saline mixture, or effervescing draught, blistering the nape of the neck, cold vinegar to the head, and warm water to the feet, with some trifling variation according to existing circumstances, formed the rest of my treatment. In the warm summer and autumn of 1818, and in the mild winter and hot summer of 1819, the epidemic materially changed its type: at those periods this fever unmasked itself; it then appeared of a nature more inflammatory, so that now no one could err, by exhibiting repeated purgatives, except when attended with diarrhœa, a symptom I have generally found, as accurately observed by Mr. Collingwood, "to be indicative of much danger." With him I also agree, that emetics are sometimes injurious, particularly so during the latter period, since the disease has embraced so much inflammatory excitement, or in the sanguineous habit. But in the wet seasons, and in the torpid or sub-irritative constitution, I more frequently ordered them, because I found, when they were given early in the disease, *i. e.* in the first stage, they oftentimes did cut short the progress of the fever.

"In 1818, a new era commenced, or at least an old one revived, in the treatment of this fever---to wit, abstraction of blood. The idea doubtless originated in the management of fevers of warm climates; the Brunonians were now in array in estimating the number of murders about to be committed, by the use of the lancet. This remedy, however, has saved the lives of many hundreds, but I do not hold that it is to be indiscriminately employed in every case; that circumstance must alone rest with the skill and experience of the attendant; the man who will be led away by the very letter of any system, I conceive to be a very unsafe practitioner. Blood-letting, in the greater number of cases, if had recourse to in time, is of most singular use. The following will in some measure illustrate the urgent necessity of bleeding in the first case, and the utility of it in the second case.

"In the winter of 1819, a young man, of a robust habit, was attacked with the prevailing epidemic. From what I have since heard, there was a marked determination of blood to the head; but being *typhus fever*, blood-letting was never dreamt of; an antimonial emetic was very indiscreetly given to him, and in a few days the poor man was taken off by inflammation of the brain; for I hear he became delirious, and even furious, before he died. In the following summer (July last) his brother was attacked with the same disease; I visited him, by request, on the third day, and found him labouring under severe pain of the head and loins, flushing of the face, pulse full, considerable thirst, the bowels tolerably regular. I immediately bled him, from a large orifice, to the extent of twelve or thirteen ounces, which instantly relieved the pain of the loins; with the help of a dose of calomel, and two of salts and senna, and some saline mixture, my patient was enabled to be again in his business in five days.

"In short, I have seen no case terminate fatally, where blood-letting has been premised; but the practitioner has often to regret his being sent for too late, to adopt that practice. I have, however,

performed it on the sixth day, where congestion had taken place in some essential organ; but, I must say, it did not produce any very manifest benefit; yet I never conceived it did any harm. The depletion produced by purgatives alone, may have proved curative in such cases; but I would sooner trust to the conjoined influence of purgatives and bleeding, when the state of the constitution will allow of the latter practice.

"I believe many practitioners are deterred from blood-letting in this fever, because it so seldom exhibits the buffy coat; but as the disease has lately appeared (for I have seen no case in our neighbourhood since October last), I think no man of any experience will deny, but that it did partake strongly of inflammatory action, although of a peculiar nature; and lastly, as blood-letting, when performed discreetly, and at an early period, has been tested by the experience of two years, I am too tenacious of hastily laying aside "a practice that has, after a period of unmerited eclipse, been happily revived, and which has so materially lessened the mortality of our ordinary fevers." "I am, Sir,

"Your obedient servant,

"*Chepstow, Jan. 24th*, 1820. "M. WILLETT."

FACTITIOUS AIRS AND GALVANISM.—As a proof that the art of medicine has or is about to advance, may be noticed the employment of those remedies which immediately increase or diminish the vitality of the system; viz. the gases and galvanism. About twenty years ago these remedies were brought forward with much empyrical eclat; but the puffers being ignorant of the principles on which they acted, administered them indiscriminately in cases of debility and inflammable excitement. Hence the frequent failure, which followed their use, brought them into disrepute. To Mr. Payne, of Bond Street, the profession and public are indebted for his having persevered in the exhibition of the different gases on scientific principles, against high professional prejudice; and to Mr. La Beaume, for his judicious application of the galvanic fluid in cases of nervous debility, and particularly torpidity of the abdominal viscera. Oxygen gas, inhaled in the quantity of a few quarts, occasion a glowing heat throughout the whole body, and by conveying carbon and hydrogene from the blood, renders that fluid more pure. These are facts which have been satisfactorily ascertained. The galvanic fluid applied to the spinal marrow, and to the ganglionic system, by increasing the energy of the whole nervous system, and particularly of the stomach and intestines, act so very powerfully as an auxiliary to the vital air, that invalids in the last stage of dropsy, or on the verge of the grave from extreme debility, have been shortly restored to health: when, on the contrary, inflammatory action takes place, the hydro-carbonate gas by diminishing the quantity of oxygen in the blood, will often succeed in reducing it, particularly when seated in the chest, without having recourse to the loss of blood. To promote the antiphlogistic effects of this remedy, the galvanic power of the brain may be diminished by keeping up evaporation from the scalp by the application of luke-warm water by means of a napkin. These remedies we have known to re-

duce the pulse in a few minutes from 120 to 80; and the hard distended pulse, indicative of plethora, to a degree of softness, which would lead a practitioner to suppose, that the quantity of blood in the sanguiferous system had been greatly diminished. The efficacy of the hydro-carbonate gas, we are credibly informed, was most clearly illustrated some years ago when the late Duke of Kent was afflicted with inflammation of the lungs. After inhaling it for a few minutes two or three times a day for three days, every inflammatory symptom disappeared, without having recourse to the lancet. In his last indisposition, which on its onset was not more violent than the former, the gas was not to be obtained, and the disease, in an unusually short period, terminated fatally. We are informed that he lost no less a quantity than 120 ounces of blood, which for a habit, that may be termed phlegmatic, was probably enough. That the cures effected by galvanism, and the gases, have greatly increased the confidence of medical men and the public, in their restorative virtues, is evident by the increase of the institutions for their exhibition. In our last number we noticed an establishment by Mr. Price, in Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, a surgeon of great experience and scientific attainments. In such hands the gases will undergo a fair trial, because they will be administered judiciously. It must be particularly gratifying to a gentleman of such liberal principles as Mr. Payne possesses, to see his long labours thus crowned with complete success. (See his notice on the cover of the present number.) Since our last number, Mr. La Beaume has published an enlarged edition of his remarks on the History and Philosophy of Electricity, and its medical efficacy in the cure of nervous and chronic disorders, and various local affections; with observations on galvanism, as an efficient substitute for mercury in bilious and stomach complaints.

In this edition the Author has given many facts strongly illustrative of the beneficial effects of his new system of treatment; which, to invalids and scientific inquirers, cannot but prove highly interesting. In our next number we shall give a description of the improved galvanic apparatus of our very scientific correspondent, Dr. De Sanctis, which will greatly simplify the mode of using the remedy.

OXYMEL OF THE HEDGE HYSSOP.—This oxymel, which has been administered very successfully in cases of spasmodic asthma, nervous and consumptive cough, &c. is made in the following manner;

Dissolve one ounce of the extract of the hedge hyssop in a pint of white wine vinegar, and afterwards add a pound and a half of honey, and boil the mixture over a gentle fire, till reduced to nearly a pint and a half. The dose is a dessert spoonful in a wine glass of barley water; or, if the patient be emaciated, in the decoction of Iceland moss.

DISCUTIENT PLAISTER.—A physician informs us that he has found the plaister of sulphuret of potass, hemlock, &c. noticed in our 45th number, more beneficial in dispersing indolent tumours, than any other application.

TEA.—A dealer in tea, under the firm of *The Genuine Tea*

Company, has lately published a pamphlet on tea, with the laudable view of pointing out the salubrious property of the different teas imported from China, and the disinterested one of directing the public to the shops which are supplied by the said company. To convince his readers that tea is beneficial to health, he brings forward the opinions of a set of writers who were ignorant of its chemical and medicinal properties. Of the opinion of Dr. Lettsom, he has given only as much as may correspond with his views. Dr. L.'s assertion that he had obtained from green tea, by distillation, an oderous water, powerfully narcotic and highly injurious to the stomach, he has thought proper to omit. Dr. Smith also found an infusion of tea to destroy the sensibility of nerves, and to paralyze muscles; and the late celebrated Dr. Cullen found it a powerful sedative, and attributed the frequency of indigestion to its paralyzing effects on the stomach. Its operation on the nervous system differs greatly in different persons; and we must also make allowance for the power of habit, which reconciles the stomach for a time to the most active vegetable poisons, but which ultimately destroy the sensibility of its muscular fibres. "But," says the author, "nothing can more satisfactorily plead in favour of the salubrious property of tea, than its almost universal use." Now in reply to this observation, no people are more subject to the symptoms of indigestion, as flatulence, cramp in the stomach, head-ache, &c. than tea drinkers. No tea drinker is, indeed, entirely free from indigestion. As another strong proof of the *strengthening* virtue of tea, the author notices its beneficial effects in promoting digestion, when taken a short time after a full meal. Now this is attributing to tea what is, in fact, due to the warm water; for warm water, with milk and sugar, will produce the same effect.

The essential oil of tea is a very powerful poison; and that the leaves, before this oil is dissipated by drying, are a powerful poison, is a fact which the cultivators and preparers of it in China admit. That the tea, the author of the pamphlet sells, is *genuine*, we do not deny; but that it is more genuine, or of a better quality, than that sold by other grocers, we cannot allow. Indeed, in regard to quality, we have found their teas inferior. That this country produces leaves very superior to those imported from China under different names of Congou, Green, &c. to form a liquid article of diet, by infusion in warm water, cannot admit of a doubt. In a former number we gave a receipt for a combination of herbs. In it we have lately made an alteration, by omitting the peach leaves, on account of their containing Prussic acid. The composition we now recommend, consists of agrimony, balm, tea sage, lemon thyme, hyssop, veronica, and rose leaves. An infusion of this composition in boiling water, with a little milk and sugar, is very pleasant to the palate, and invigorates the stomach, and promotes healthy digestion. This composition may be obtained, under the name of British herbs, at the Medical Hall, 171, Piccadilly, at the rate of twenty-pence a pound.

Connected with this subject, we some weeks ago received the following letter from Dr. Jones:—

"SIR,—I was much pleased with the exposition of the poisonous qualities of tea, contained in your number for August. I have long been satisfied of this fact, having made a variety of experiments, both on brutes and my own person, with the view of ascertaining the peculiar properties of this exotic. Although the deleterious effects of tea will be found, on examination, to be unquestionable, it is so far from having excited general attention, that the ill effects from this fashionable beverage, in many constitutions, have been usually ascribed to the *heat* of the fluid in which it is infused. Yet an infusion of common herbs may be taken, quite hot, with impunity; and water, as hot as it can be drank, is one of the best remedies for a species of indigestion, arising from the use of tea. The debilitating effects of tea are very remarkable, in some persons; in others, they are not so immediately recognized, though the constitution may be gradually undermined by its use. The disorders which arise directly or indirectly from it, are very rarely ascribed to their proper source; they are very various, but they are all resolvable into the immediate operation of a debilitating and narcotic poison on the nervous coat of the stomach. Let any person who is desirous of knowing the effects of tea on the constitution, make on himself the experiment of taking a large quantity of strong green tea. The effects I have had frequent opportunities of experiencing, in my own person, even without intending to gratify my curiosity. When engaged during the night in sick chambers, I generally indulge myself in copious libations of tea, and rarely escape, on the following day, a train of nervous symptoms, which manifest a disturbance of the functions of the stomach, accompanied by eructations of fluid, as in the disease known by the term pyrosis or water brash. A continuance of the practice, to this extent, would, in me, render life insupportable, to say nothing of the chance of more serious diseases being created. But the production of these symptoms is fortunately succeeded by its natural remedy,—a disinclination to repeat the dose for some days following, when the digestive organs, no longer under the sedative influence of the poison, resume their healthy action. These will be found to be the symptoms from a larger quantity than usual; and, when taken to this extent, no doubt exists as to the cause of the mischief. But we can less easily demonstrate the consequences of a more limited employment of it. So, if a man takes such a quantity of spirits as immediately to destroy his life, the cause is evident, but a single glass of spirits, in some states of the constitution, may occasion disease in one of the viscera, which, although it may be imperceptible to the patient, and escape the detection of the practitioner, might prove ultimately fatal; yet, if any person were to affirm, that a single glass of brandy had occasioned death, in this instance, he would scarcely obtain credit. It cannot be difficult to conceive, that the *daily* use of a plant, evidently possessing narcotic powers, may be injurious; and we do find, that those nations who do not possess it in sufficient abundance to make it a common beverage, are less subject to diseases of a particular class than we are. Indigestion and nervous complaints are infinitely less frequent in France than in England. Gout is much more rare in

France, though wine, its generally supposed exciting cause, is the more usual drink. Now I have found all these complaints considerably benefitted by substituting for foreign tea an infusion of herbs, the growth of our own country. I was first induced to adopt this practice, from observing in these and many others, that the functions of the stomach were much impaired, that this derangement invariably preceded the other symptoms, and the patients were tea-drinkers to excess. I cannot too strongly recommend to invalids an attentive consideration of these facts. The use of foreign tea is a destructive habit, but it is a habit easily conquered; were it even difficult at first, the effort would be amply repaid by an improved constitution. My time will not allow me to enter as fully into the consideration of this subject as I could wish; some abler hand will perhaps do it more justice. With regard to the composition of the British herb tea, you will allow me to recommend, to that quoted in a former number of your valuable work, an addition of lemon thyme and agrimony.

"I have devoted many years to this investigation, and have tried every thing of this sort that has been devised; it is more pleasant, is very strengthening, promoting the secretions of bile, and of urine. The latter property accounts for its effects in indigestion, gravel, and in bilious and nervous diseases, which it almost invariably removes. I have seen it very largely used in gout with good effect, and many patients have been radically cured; but as they have taken, at the same time, other medicines, I am not able to say precisely what share is due to the respective remedies.

"I am, Sir, your obedient servant.

"JAMES JONES, M. D.

"*Camden Town, August* 26, 1819."

EMPLOYMENT OF THE POOR.—A few months since, Mr. William Salisbury, an eminent lecturer on botany, laid before a meeting of noblemen, an account of a new system of employment, well calculated to relieve the distresses, and increase the comforts of the poor, which met with their warm approbation; and they, in consequence, immediately entered into a subscription, to enable Mr. S. to carry his laudable plan into execution. This system, we find, embraces two very important objects.—Firstly, The teaching such rural arts for the use of persons in distant parts of the kingdom. It has already been introduced in Gosport, Dorking, and Stockport, where it has been found to exceed the most sanguine expectations of its patrons.—Secondly, The extension of it in and about the metropolis, so as to afford food and lodgings for the poor, for which they will be enabled to pay by the fruits of their labour. Regulations are adopted for the classification and separation of the poor employed, and attention is paid to the quality of their food, and to the comforts of their lodgings. Each is rewarded according to his labour, and importance of his assistance; and all above the sum he may require to support him, is allowed to collect in the hands of the treasurer; thus forming a saving bank for the individuals employed, a circumstance which powerfully operates in exciting a spirit of industry. This "School of Economy" is in Duke Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields.

Mr. Salisbury attends every forenoon to shew the establishment, and the specimens of the different works the poor have been, by his direction, enabled to perform. By a small contribution, thus employed, the good that is done to society at large is incalculable. Having visited the institution, and inspected the various arrangements, and manufactured articles, and witnessed the comfort of the poor employed in it, we cannot conclude this concise account of it without recommending it to the attention of our wealthy readers.

QUACKERY.—A respectable correspondent informs us, that Mr. Clough, an apothecary of Norton-street, is about to make a clear distinction between regular practice and quackery, which will enable the most ignorant to know the safe practitioner, or man of merit, from the dangerous quack or impostor. Such an undertaking is indeed most praise-worthy; and we hope soon to hear that he has carried his plan into execution. We beg leave to hint to that philanthropic or disinterested practitioner, that the practice, which we fear is but too common, of sending a patient (generally a *particular* friend) five draughts daily, besides powders, pills, &c. merely to run up a bill, is quackery of the worst kind, because it is tampering with the life of a friend, for the sake of lucre. Such a person is a far more contemptible wretch, than the man who sells a box of lozenges, made by the direction of a regular practitioner. One makes merchandize of a friend, who places in his judgment the most implicit confidence,---a person too, for whom he professes to entertain great friendship; while the other sells the articles without any such profession, and the purchaser takes it with his eyes open. Our readers must not suppose that we are advocating the trade of nostrums. It is a traffic most disgraceful, and has proved fatal to many thousands. The draught practice, which prevails in the present day, is more disgraceful, and more dangerous; and has driven more to the patent medicine shops, than have been attracted to it by the false promises of advertisers. It may be said, that an apothecary is obliged to keep up a respectable appearance; and as he has no other means of remunerating himself, than the profit arising from the medicine his patients consume, he is under the necessity of giving it in quantity. We allow it is exceedingly hard that an apothecary cannot legally make a small charge for attendance on the sick, for in many diseases very little medicine is necessary; and in others, its exhibition is absolutely impracticable. But where is the patient who, on proper explanation, would not rather pay an apothecary at the rate of four or five shillings a visit, than take an extra quantity of mediciue to the amount of six or seven shillings daily, to remunerate the apothecary for his attendance. A physician cannot recover fees by law; and it was on this account the legislature refused to comply with the application of the apothecaries, to enable them to recover for attendance. It would, in our opinion, have redounded more to the credit of the legislature, to have granted their request, and to have limited their charge to four or five shillings a visit. We hope. Mr. Clough will take a comprehensive view of regular and irregular quackery, and fairly contrast them with *honest* practice.

GAZETTE OF HEALTH.

No. 51. To MARCH 1, 1820. Vol. V.

HIS LATE MAJESTY.

Though the age of superstition and fanaticism has nearly expired, and the rays of science have acted in a certain degree on almost every mind above the common level; still there are prejudices which hang upon us on certain points, that give interest to circumstances otherwise trivial. The death of a King is one of these; and it is only by viewing it with the calm eye of philosophy, and divesting it of the glare which rank throws over it, that we can properly regard it as a *common* event. But though the fate of a king, *when consigned to the tomb*, is a natural occurrence, and the casual circumstance of the day; the case of his late Majesty was marked by certain peculiarities, which render it interesting in a metaphysical as well as a physiological point of view.

The material part of man, like that of other animals, is derived from the earth; but he possesses an immaterial principle as *the tenant of* this humble clay, the rational superintending power of the machine, which belongs to him exclusively. The science of chemistry unfolds to us the combinations and properties of the physical world, whether animate or inanimate; but the *immaterial principle* of man eludes detection, and, unlike what happens in the physical world, this superaddition differs greatly in different individuals; and although the shades of intellectual difference distinguish individuals, *no difference* is perceived in the *material part*, all being of the same composition and organization.

In a former Number, under the article *Soul*, we advanced arguments to prove that the brain is the *immediate* instrument of communication between the soul and the physical world, and through which it performs its intellectual operations. The progress of anatomical research has clearly demonstrated that this *peculiar* apparatus, contained in the bony confines of the skull, is not a *simple* organ, but rather a system or congeries of organs, each possessing its separate intellectual or moral faculty, some destined to perform *good* and other *evil* offices in directing the conduct of life. Over these, Reason is placed as the *supreme* arbiter to check and control their influence; and thus is man rendered responsible to his Creator for his bad actions. But other animals possess an immaterial principle termed *instinct*, which is also common to man. The faculty of reason seems gradually to develope itself in the progress of the body to maturity. During infancy he is entirely under the guidance of instinct, as we see in the child searching for the nipple, crying when hungry, &c. But as the growth advances, the organs of the brain gradually expand, and reason as gradually assumes her authority, and the power of instinct in proportion declines, except when roused in some degree by the force of those passions over which reason has

not an entire control. This view of the complex nature of man it is necessary to premise, in considering the disease of his late Majesty, which was confined to that part of the body, the seat of the intellectual and moral principle, viz. the *brain.* When an individual is affected with that alienation of mind termed madness, at which humanity shudders more than at any other malady, we are not to suppose that the soul is deranged. The state of mind is merely the consequence of some morbid change or alteration in the structure of the brain, which by increasing or diminishing its excitement, renders it unfit for performing the operations of the soul. The brain we may thus compare to a telegraph, which can work correctly only under the guidance of an intelligent power. If one organ of the brain be diseased, the person will be irrational only on the subject to which the part is devoted; but if the whole system of organs which constitute the brain be disordered, he will be irrational on every subject. Under this diseased state, when the brain is greatly excited, the mind will be violent, forming what is termed furious insanity, a species which is observed to be particularly under *lunar influence;* but when the brain suffers, on the contrary, a diminished excitement, placid insanity, or idiotism, takes place, (often the sequel of the former species). When the brain is not subservient to the operations of the soul, *Instinct* reassumes her power, and the evil organs of the brain, which have been kept in a quiescent state by the influence of education and religion, will come into action. The innate bad dispositions will then predominate, and the individual who, while reason maintained her influence, was strictly religious and moral, will apparently delight in expressions outrageous of every thing religious or correct. It is a curious fact, ascertained by anatomical researches, that the ganglionic portion of the nervous system, appropriated to the viscera of the chest and belly, increases in size and vigour, and acquires greater influence, in the degree as the shades of intellect darken. Hence, as mania or idiotism advance, the bodily health improves. Those who have been subject to a train of complaints affecting the stomach and bowels, and attended with indigestion and costiveness, become entirely free from these affections, and every uneasy symptom disappears; the stomach regaining its full energy, and the appetite often becoming voracious; the consequences of which are, the emaciated subject will become corpulent, and his muscular strength will be increased to a surprising degree. Thus it appears, that from the ganglionic part of the system, the stomach and other viscera of the abdomen derive their power of performing their offices, and that nourishment, healthy mutation and reparation of diseased or injured parts, are dependent on it. Indeed it is reasonable to conclude, that, as some animals possess apparently no organ resembling a brain, the ganglionic system is the seat of the instinctive principle. The mind of man is therefore of a two-fold nature. This opinion is supported by the powers of instinct increasing or advancing as the brain becomes diseased.—There is no subject more interesting to physicians and metaphysicians, than the diseases of the mind; they open a wide field for physiological speculation and metaphysical dis-

cussion; but in the latter, Providence seems to have given limits to human intellect. Our inquiries cannot be carried beyond the physical world; and to our knowledge of metaphysics, we solely stand indebted to revelation; our immaterial part having no power of inquiring into its own nature, its origin, or a future state.

The particular symptoms of the case of his late Majesty has been studiously concealed from the public. In drawing up the bulletins, the physicians seem to have been afraid of saying too much; for no more can be collected from them, than that his Majesty continued to enjoy good health, but that his malady remained unabated. Indeed, some of them were so ambiguously worded, as to lead the ignorant to suppose that he was, at times, free from any malady. This was probably policy. It was at least consistent with the sensible advice an ancient physician gave to his pupils, never to give an opinion of the state of a patient, from which he could not retract with the semblance of consistency, in case of any untoward circumstance. Though this ambiguity might be proper as courtiers, it was not giving that explanation, which the *anxiety* and LOYALTY of the public had a right to expect.

The first appearance of his Majesty's malady was soon after his accession to the throne, as we learn from an edition of *Smollett's* History of England, *then published*, and which was *afterwards suppressed*. The disease which occurred about thirty years ago, was at first that species of insanity which is termed furious; and of this, it is well known, he had repeated attacks; but the reign of reason afterwards returned, and his regular habits, and his abstemious diet, with due exercise, kept down the *morbid excitement* of the brain. As age however advanced, these preventive means lost their effect, and about *eight* years ago the mental disease seems to have been fully *confirmed*. The energies of the brain having greatly declined, a state of placid insanity bordering on idiotism ensued. In this situation his bodily health improved, his appetite increased, but still *nothing* could be done, through the medium of the powers of the constitution, to improve the *morbid* conditions of the brain. In his disposition, for the most part, he was inoffensive and tractable, so that no coercion or mechanical restraint was found necessary, as had been indispensable in the paroxysms of his former illness. Where the brain at times involuntarily acted, it seems to have been on subjects, on which he had been formerly occupied, or matters of goverment. At times, his conversation on the latter subject appeared to be consistent. In him the instinctive principle arrived to its full power, for on all occasions he was able to *assist himself* till within a few weeks of his dissolution. At length the ganglionic system, on which his life was solely dependent, giving way from old age, the stomach was not equal to its office, and the food in consequence, passed undigested with unusual celerity through the intestinal canal. The aid of medicine afforded some temporary relief. Stimulating astringents warded off for a while the hour of dissolution; but it was beyond the art of medicine to remove the primary cause. The nervous powers gradually ceased, and his Majesty followed the course of all flesh.—Death making no

distinction between the monarch and the subject, and setting as little value on the star and the garter, as on the meanest attire of the beggar, in his havoc among the human race.

Some time before the occurrence of his Majesty's last mental affliction, he seems to have had a feeling of his approaching state; and from an unpleasant effect of music upon his mind, of which he was passionately fond, to express his apprehension of a recurrence of his mental malady. We are credibly informed that it did take place in a slight degree some weeks before it was officially announced, and that an attempt which was made to conceal it from the public by inducing him to take an "*airing*" through the city, tended greatly to aggravate it. The death of the Princess Amelia soon after gave the finishing blow to his intellectual powers.

It has been supposed that there was something very peculiar in the nature of his Majesty's malady when it occurred about thirty years ago. The late Dr. Willis attributed it to a want of energy in the brain, and in this he differed from the other medical attendants. In opposition therefore to their opinion, he allowed him to shave himself. From this it would appear that his Majesty's attacks did not long retain the character of furious mania, and that a diminished excitement of the brain soon ensued, verging on idiotism, as was the case in his last attack.

Although two medical gentlemen were in attendance, the sons of the late Dr. Willis, (to whose judicious treatment his recovery from his attack, about thirty years ago, was attributed), it does not appear that any means were employed to reinstate reason on her throne,—we mean as to any management of the mind. The state of the important senses of vision and hearing, certainly were unfavourable for such experiment.

During insanity, what conclusion is to be formed of the state of the soul? Is it *instinct* that leads the furious maniac to terminate his life by suicide, as an improper subject to remain on earth? The ingenuity that many maniacs have shewn in attempts to commit suicide, and the manner in which some have effected it, is very remarkable.

In examining the skull of his late Majesty, if we are to form a judgment according to the cranial indication pointed out by Dr. Gall, the sentiments we have expressed on the state of his disorder will be found correct.—The organs indicative of the moral faculties were also strongly marked.

THE LATE DUKE OF KENT.—The term *pneumonia*, commonly employed by members of the profession, as synonymous with peripneumonia (inflammation of the lung), but which, strictly speaking, comprehends all inflammations of the viscera, and membranes of the chest, may with propriety be applied to the disease of which the late Duke of Kent died: for we understand, that not only the substance of the lungs, and the pleura were inflamed, but that the vessels of all the contents of the chest were found, on dissection, to be over distended with blood. To subdue so formidable an extent of inflammation, particularly of parts of vital importance, in the animal economy, the most active means were employed. The

late *indis*position of his present Majesty was inflammation, but the symptoms were much more mild, and it is very probable, the inflammation considerably less extensive. Indeed, from one source, on which we can rely, we learn that it was a simple case of pleurisy. The treatment with respect to depletion, which was adopted in each case, was very similar. His Majesty being of a plethoric habit, bore the loss of blood much better than the late Duke of Kent, whose constitution was somewhat leucophlegmatic. In the former case, repetition of copious bleeding was found necessary to produce a favourable impression on the symptoms indicative of inflammation, and afterwards each operation succeeded in affording relief. In the latter case, the same benefit was not produced by the practice, probably in consequence of a want of vigour in the arterial system to propel the blood through the lungs, or to equalize the circulation; those of the vessels of the chest remaining overloaded, while those the extremities were in a state of depletion. This in leucophlegmatic habits is often the case, and particularly in that species of inflammation of the lungs, termed *peripneumonia notha*. That the medical and dietetic treatment of the case of the late Duke was most judicious, cannot admit of a doubt. The mischief was too extensive to be subdued by the means of depletion, diversion, &c. we possess, and which we generally find to succeed even in extensive inflammation in the chest.

THE LATE DUKE DE BERRI.—"Sirs, the high estimation in which your publication is held by the leading physicians and surgeons in Paris, has induced me to send you some account of the wound which terminated the existence of the Duke de Berri, and the treatment of it. The stiletto passing between the 6th and 7th rib, penetrated deeply into the substance of the lung. When the wound was first examined by the surgeons, who were on the spot, it was pronounced, in consequence of its closing, to be so superficial, as not to place his life in danger; but by the time the Royal Surgeons arrived, the most unfavourable symptoms occurred. His Royal Highness was then spitting blood, and air and blood escaped from the wound; affording evidence, but too strong, of the wound being deep, and of the probability of its ending fatally. The surgeons deemed it proper not to close the wound, that the blood discharged from the injured lung might escape; and that it might not be checked by coagulum, suction was occasionally employed. An English surgeon would have bound up the wound, and by the application of a bandage would have prevented the full expansion of the chest. He would also by freely unloading the sanguiferous system, and by the exhibition of anodyne and antiphlogistic medicines, have attempted to keep down irritation in the chest. Whether such practice would have succeeded better than the one that was adopted, I must not *here* venture to give my opinion.

"In the late campaigns in Italy, the latter practice I have found to succeed in cases apparently as formidable as that of the late Duke de Berri. Louvel, the perpetrator of the horrid deed, from his sullen countenance, and the most extraordinary apathy he has evinced, is, doubtless, as much a maniac as Margaret Nicholson, at the time she made an attempt on the life of the late King of England; but

alas, of this class I suspect there are but too many let loose on society from the armies of Germany, Italy, and France. The duty of a soldier is to destroy as many lives of those who are opposed to him as may be in his power; and it is *perhaps* better that population should be kept down by war than by famine or plague. War however tends to demoralize those who are engaged in the carnage. The man who has frequently seen the dead bodies exhibited on a field after a battle, cannot form a proper estimate of human life; nor can we expect him to hold murder, of all crimes the blackest, in that abhorrence in which it should be held. Of the circumstances which may justify murder, deliberate or unprovoked manslaughter, or whatever the spilling of human blood may be termed, the lower classes are not competent judges. In Paris, much has been said of the outlawry of Napoleon, by certain powers, for the avowed purpose of exempting the person from punishment, who might put him to death: indeed, instead of the act being pronounced a crime, it would have been deemed a glorious one. Such proceedings cannot but have a most baneful effect on the morals of the ignorant. Let us hope that the time is not far distant, when the weapons invented for the destruction of man, will be converted into implements of agriculture; and that we shall glory more in *practising* christianity than we now do in *professing* it. In a few weeks I intend to send you the result of some trials I am now making with the acetate of lead, in cases of morbid irritation and inflammatory affections of the lungs.

"I am Sir, your faithful friend and colleague,

"*Paris, Feb.* 21st, 1820." "M. de U.——M.D. & C."

REPORT OF DISEASES.—At no period since the institution of our publication, has London exhibited such a variety of diseases as it has done for the last three weeks. Regula practitioners, and regular and irregular quacks, have had a very productive harvest; and if we may judge from the number of funerals, the undertakers have no just reason of complaint against either of them: Among children, hooping cough and measles have been very prevalent. The acetate of lead in the dose of one grain, with two grains of the extract of henbane, administered two or three times a day, has proved very beneficial, generally effecting a cure in a few days. Such a combination is too potent to be employed without the superintendance of a medical practitioner. The inflammatory symptoms of measles have generally run high, and some cases of secondary fever have terminated in organic disease of the lungs, in consequence of the neglect of blisters, and a pectoral anodyne. Rheumatism and gout have been unusually severe, from the rapid changes that have taken place in the atmosphere. Of the treatment recommended in our last three Numbers for these diseases, we have witnessed the beneficial effects in several instances. In catarrhal cough, from which very few have been entirely exempt, the lettuce lozenge, made according to the prescription of Dr. Duncan, has proved very beneficial: By allaying irritation, promoting expectoration, and determining to the skin, their curative effects have been very speedy. In advanced cases of asthma, constitutional cough, and pectoral angina, the vital air inhaled to the extent of six quarts daily, has afforded the most decided relief. Of the beneficial consesquences to the general health that has followed the adoption of the composition of British herbs, recommended in our last Number, we have received reports from different parts of the country. Some correspondents state, that they have remained entirely

free from pains in the stomach and bowels, and many distressing symptoms of indigestion, since they have substituted the compound herbs for tea. Galvanism, under the direction of Mr. La Beaume, still supports its reputation in cases of nervous debility of the viscera of the abdomen. In inflammation of the lungs and pleurisy, abstraction of blood has been carried to a much greater extent than at any former period. We have heard of fifty ounces having been taken from a patient in the course of twenty-four hours, and one hundred and fifty in the short period of four days!! In some robust plethoric subjects, this practice has succeeded, but in others it has apparently accelerated the termination of life. Cases of small pox after cow pox, are become so common, as no longer to excite any interest. In one family we lately met with seven children laid up with small pox, all of whom had been vaccinated, some eight years, and others four years ago.

APOPLEXY AND INDIGESTION.—Sirs,—Notwithstanding all that has been written, both by the ancient and modern, on the subject of apoplexy, it appears to me, that, with respect to its immediate cause, we are still in the dark. All agree in opinion, that sanguiferous apoplexy is occasioned by compression of the brain, either from over distension of blood vessels, or by effusion of blood; but, I believe, no writer has condescended to particularise the set of vessels which are overloaded, or to state whether the effused blood be venous or arterial. All, again, agree in the propriety of abstracting blood as soon as possible after an attack; and the late Dr. Fordyce and Mr. Abernethy, to whom I was a pupil, particularly recommended blood to be taken from the temple artery. This I have repeatedly done, without having succeeded in one case; and others who have adopted the same practice, have met with the same result. On examining the brain after death, I have uniformly found the sinuses (which convey blood from the brain) to be greatly distended, and also the vessels of the membranes and substance of the brain, and that too, in one case in which I could not stop the flow of blood from the punctured temporal artery, till the patient had lost many pounds. Reflecting on the inefficacy of this practice, some years ago, and the benefit which is often produced by vomiting, and by stimulants applied to the stomach, on the first attack of an apoplectic fit, it struck me very forcibly, that the disease is produced by a diminution of that power on which the transmission of blood through the sinuses of the brain depends, and that to it the venous congestion is solely to be attributed. The veins and sinuses of the brain have no power in themselves of propelling their contents, being dependent on the action of the arteries for it. When the brain is compressed, the powers of the arteries to overcome the obstruction in the veins is diminished, and thus is the evil increased, and apoplexy brought on. Now, by abstracting blood from an artery, the veins and sinuses are not unloaded, but, on the contrary, the cause of their congestion is increased, by diminishing the propelling power of the arteries; for it is on the power of the arteries that we are chiefly to depend, to propel the blood through the sinuses. In venous congestion, which assuredly prevails at the period of life when apoplexy occurs, no experienced or considerate practitioner would think of taking blood from an artery, with the view of unloading local distension of veins: he would open, in case of apoplexy, one or both of the external

jugular veins. It is worthy of remark, that on puncturing the jugular vein in a case of apoplexy, the blood at first flows very slowly, but after an ounce has escaped, the stream increases; and after the loss of four or five ounces, it is thrown out with great force; and if effusion has not taken place within the skull to a great extent, the patient will open his eyes, and become sensible. On the contrary, when blood is taken from an artery, the symptoms continue the same; and in some instances I have known the patient die almost immediately after the operation. These circumstances prove, that the practice recommended by Mr. Abernethy, and I may, say, by all the Lecturers on Medicine in London and Edinburgh,—viz. of opening the temporal artery is not only injurious, but contraindicated by the real nature of the disease. The uniform beneficial consequences of spontaneous vomiting, confirm the opinion I have given of the immediate cause of the disease. If it was produced by a determination of blood to the head, vomiting, by increasing the afflux to the brain, would assuredly prove injurious; but, on the contrary, by promoting the action of the arteries, the venous conjestion is overcome, and the blood is equally transmitted throughout the sanguiferous system. The same effect is produced by the introduction of a cordial into the stomach.

Indigestion, although the most common complaint that occurs in this country, I have reason to believe, is as little understood as sanguineous apoplexy. The cause of ninety-nine cases in a hundred that fall under my care, I find to depend on *increased excitement* of the stomach instead of *debility* or *relaxation*, to which it is uniformly attributed by routine physicians. If a patient complains of symptoms of indigestion, (loss of appetite, flatulence, heartburn, &c.) the cause is immediately referred to debility of the stomach, and a mixture of stimulants, astringents, bitters, &c. is accordingly prescribed, to remove the supposed cause. Such a combination, by acting as a carminative, frequently affords relief, but it is dearly purchased; for the cause instead of being removed, is rendered more permanently fixed, and the symptoms, soon after the medicine is discontinued, return with increased violence. The mode of treatment I have fouud to answer in cases of indigestion, is diametrically opposite to that which practitioners adopt. Instead of stimulating stomachics, I administer such medicines as are calculated to allay the morbid excitement or feverish condition of the stomach, as the saline mixture, or what I have lately found very beneficial, a solution of the carbonate of soda and the tartaric acid, in a state of effervescence. The fixed air which is disengaged, allays morbid irritability of the stomach more effectually than any other remedy; the solution also increases the peristaltic motion of the intestines, which is of importance. Instead of a generous diet and vinous liquors, generally recommended in such cases, I confine my patients to a low spare regimen, and allow no other article as a beverage than water. That indigestion is sometimes the consequence of debility or relaxation of the stomach, I do not deny; but in such cases it is not a *primary* disease, but the consequence of the state of the general health or some local malady, in which case stimulating stomachics may be necessary.

The cause of the frequency of indigestion is the abuse of vinous liquors, and full meals of animal food, savoury dishes, &c., which keep the stomach in a constant state of irritability. In this morbid condition of the organ it is impossible the food can be properly digested. The animal fat becomes rancid, and the vegetable matter and vinous liquors rapidly run into the acetous fermentation, occasioning heartburn, flatulence, a sense of oppression, and general irritability of the nervous system. It is perhaps fortunate for the patient, that digestion is thus interrupted; for if all the food taken into the stomach were assimilated, the system would soon become in such a state of plethora, that might suddenly terminate life. The cases of digestion which commonly occur, especially in the higher classes of society, may, for the most part, be cured by the adoption of a spare diet, and especially by avoiding vinous and spirituous liquors and tea.

The organic diseases of the stomach, liver, and lungs, and the complaints of the head, of which nine-tenths of the inhabitants of this island die, are unquestionably occasioned by stimulating and overloading the stomach; or, in other words, by men making beasts of themselves, by indulging in their instinctive gratifications.

In my next letter, I shall particularise the symptoms by which indigestion, from *increased* or feverish excitement of the stomach, may be distinguished from that which arises from *diminished* excitement or debility. I am, Sirs, yours obediently,

Bolton Row, October 27th, 1819. CHIRO-MEDICUS.

In our last number, we gave Dr. O'Brien's opinion of the cause of the frequency of indigestion, which accords with that of Chiro-*Medicus*.

The fact is so self-evident, that it cannot fail to carry conviction with it to every reader that lives freely, or indulges in the use of vinous liquors, and particularly in malt liquor. The same opinion we have given in a former number, in commenting on the celebrated cardiac tincture of Mr. Rymer, and the stimulating nostrums of several notorious quacks; the continued use of which, in cases of morbid excitement of the stomach, cannot fail to produce that organic disease of the pylorus in certain constitutions, which resists the most judicious treatment, and renders the life of the unfortunate patient most truly wretched.

DISEASES OF THE EAR.—We have received from Mr. Wright, who held the appointment of surgeon-aurist to the late Queen, a copy of a very spirited and scientific Treatise on nervous affections of the ear. To this work (which was then in the press) we made some allusion in our last Number; we are sorry that we did not receive a copy of it in time to give an analysis of it in our present Number. It is intended chiefly for the perusal of those who suffer from nervous affections, &c. of the ear. The author has made some remarks on Mr. Earle's cases of deafness which appeared in our last Number.

EPILEPSY.—Professor Hallé has published some cases of epileptic fits, in which "cervical cauterisation" has succeeded in curing the disease. This remidy consists in the application of either moxa,

or indeed, what amounts to the same, a hot iron (actual cautery) to the superior and inferior extremities of the cervical portion of the spine. The galvanic fluid conducted from the base of the skull down the spine to the feet, by means of the apparatus simplified by the scientific Doctor de Sanctis, promises to prove very benefical, by improving the conducting power of the spinal marrow and nerves. We recommend Mr. Mansford, of Bath, to give this mode of treatment a trial. It is scarcely necessary to observe, that during the use of such remedies, attention should be paid to the state of the stomach, intestines, and sanguiferous system. Cold water applied every morning to the head is a powerful auxiliary.

DYSENTERY AND DIARRHŒA.—Dr. Ficinus of Dresden, has lately exhibited alumine in cases of dysentery and diarrhœa, with complete success, after the usual remedies have failed. This article may be pricipetated from a solution of alum by potass or soda. The dose is from three to five grains. It may be administered with gum arabic or in barley water. In chronic diarrhœa of elderly people, attendant on organic disease of the colon and lungs, it has proved more beneficial than absorbents or vegetable astringents.

FLUOR ALBUS—GLEET—INDIGESTION *of* ELDERLY PEOPLE—AND SPASMS *of the* STOMACH.—We continue to receive reports of cures of these diseases, effected by the saturated tincture of cubebs.

HOOPING COUGH.—We have met with some cases of this distressing disease in children, in which the inhalation of the hydrocarbonate gas proved immediately beneficial, and in the space of a few days effectually removed every symptom of the disease.

GALVANISM.—*(Dr. De Sanctis's Letter to Professor Aldini, continued from page 424.)*—"I have thus performed even my promise of giving a description of the mechanism of the *pensile pile*, with popular instructions for its management, in cases of suspended animation, and those diseases in which it may be advisable to excite the nervous system. You may easily see the difference between your *original* and my *reformed* pile and management. The wax added to the silken twist, and the glass to the top of the pile, the plates pressed closely together before the immersion in the bath, instead of being widely separated, as you used it; the larger size of the cloths and plates, the shorter period of immersion in consequence of the greater strength of the bath, and this very strength of the bath, you will find improvements of no small importance. The *medical power* of the pile is more rapidly and copiously developed, more intensely accumulated in the zinc pole, and always reproducing itself with nearly the same force for half an hour, even when the state of the atmosphere is not the most favourable, notwithstanding the necessary loss which the electrical fluid is suffering by continual artificial discharges. The alteration in the form of the case, you will allow to render it more convenient for containing all the necessary apparatus, &c. in the smallest compass, for executing, and with facility, the bath without any other addition than water, as well as to render it more easily portable; and if the addition of the needle and rubber renders more easy the *remounting*

the *pile*, the addition of the moistened linen at the end of the wires I have found to determine more certainly a complete discharge of the electrical fluid from the zinc pole; I say of the electrical fluid, from the zinc pole, because I believe we have sufficient reasons for stating that the discharge comes only from the zinc pole, and that it is electric fluid, combined more or less with caloric and light, and occasionally with different elements of the pilar ingredients, partly by real chemical affinity, and partly by mechanical impulse. Some accidental phenomena, united to some results of direct experiments, afford the ground of this conclusion.

"If by uniting many of Cruickshank's troughs, the most important results in chemical science have been obtained, what might not be hoped from an union of many stronger pensile-piles, when the pocket one now offered to the public exceeds in strength, in favourable weather, the common Leyden jars, after few rapid immersions in the pure nitric acid? and for what a length of time!

"On these subjects, as well as others connected with galvanism, I shall enlarge in an appendix to a treatise on *Suspended Animation*, a copy of which I hope soon to be able to send you.

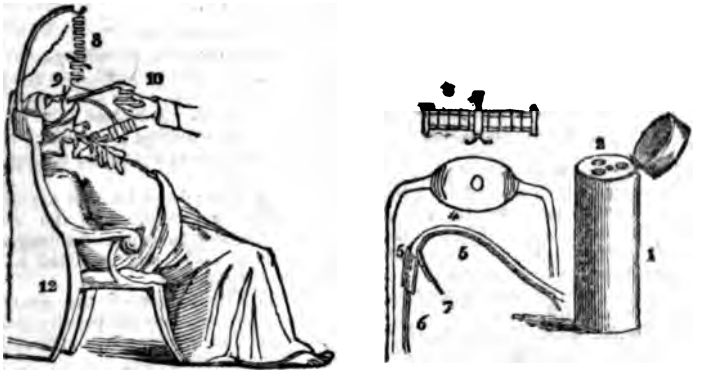
"I have the honour to be, dear Friend and Colleague, yours truly,

"43, *King Street, Covent Garden,* B. DE SANCTIS."

"*February* 18*th*, 1820.

The following is a copy of the drawing of the pensile galvanic apparatus we received from Dr. De Sanctis:—

PLATE I.



Explanation of Plate I.

Fig. 1. Chest of Apparatus for restoring Cases of Suspended Animation.

2. Three large Cavities, one for the reception of a Galvanic Pile, composed of one hundred plates, with its glass tube, &c. Another for inclosing two half piles, to be employed as appendages in cases of sudden recovery, or to form one pile for supplying the place of the exhausted one, as it is necessary to change them every half hour in cases of slow revovery, which is never to be despaired of until after four hours ineffectual application. The remaining cavity is for the bottles of nitric acid, ether, and brandy. The small hole in the case is for receiving the flexible metallic tube for the stomach. The remaining spaces will contain the other instruments. The box-bellows is to be placed inside the cover. The length of the chest

does not exceed fifteen, and the diameter scarcely four inches.

Fig. 3. Box-bellows fully extended.

4. Coated plate, with part of the elastic appendages for closing the mouth. It has a hole for the reception of the tubes for the larynx and stomach.

5. Regulator for fixing the tube in the stomach, closing the gullet, and for directing and fixing the tube for the larynx.

6. Part of the tube going to the stomach.

7. Termination of the tube for the larynx.

Fig. 8. The chief pile fixed to the hook attached to the re-animation chair. Should the patient be laid on a table, the pile must be supported by an assistant.

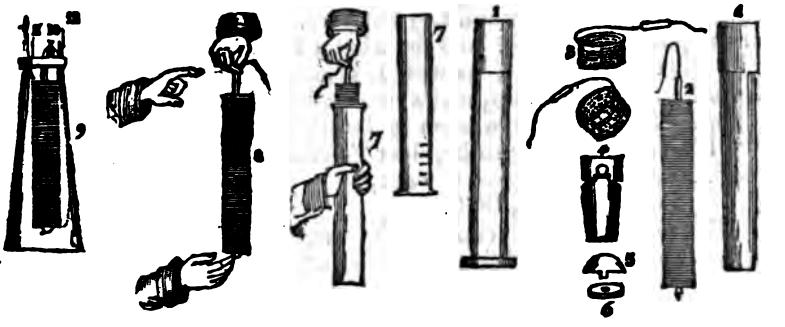
9. The forceps closing the nostrils.

10. The spirit-lamp heating the globe of ether adjusted, with the neck to the end of the gullet-tube.

11. Box-bellows attached to the end of the larynx tube.

12. Re-animation chair. The back and front are moveable, so as to adapt it to patients of different ages. After the operation, it may be converted into a convenient bed.

Plate II.



Explanation of Plate II.

Fig. 1. Portable Galvanic Pile enclosed in its tube, for any medical case in which the application of Galvanism may be deemed advisable. The tube with the largest base contains the glass tube, which may be seen graduated at the second, No. 7.

2. A pile of one hundred plates, each plate one inch and $\frac{1}{8}$th in diameter, and one-sixteenth in thickness, with cloths of six-eighth diameter. The needle has been introduced into the little glass tube.

3. Wires, with the moveable glass tube near the end.

4. Stopper bottle for the acid. The cover serves for a measure. The bottle is surrounded by blotting paper, the pile by emery paper, and cotton is placed in the upper part of the cover of the tin tube.

Fig. 5. The rubber.

6. A piece of yellow wax.

7. The pile plunged into the bath, in which it is to be moved up and down. The same is to be done in the standing glass tube.

3. Mode of trying the strength of the pile.

9. The pile enclosed in a glass vessel.

10. The needle, with the remaining silken twist passed through a piece of cork, and attached to a glass supporter.

11. The lowest of the coated wires attached to the positive pole.

12. The highest ditto attached to the negative pole.

The height of the wires attached to different parts of the pile denotes their strength.

We hope the very favourable reports of Mr. La Beaume of the effects of the galvanic fluid in cases of general and local debility of the nervous system, and the simplification of the apparatus and mode of application by Dr. De. Sanctis, will induce the medical profession to adopt its use in lieu of mineral and vegetable poisons.

The Pensile Apparatus, &c. may be obtained at the Medical Hall, 171, Piccadilly.

ARTICLES OF DIET.—Mr. Accum, a chemist of London, has lately published a treatise on the adulteration of food, and the culinary poisons; with the laudable view of exposing the practice, and of acquainting the public with the means of detecting it. Necessity, the mother of invention, has brought into action the ingenuity of the indigent, who sooner than beg, or submit to the mortifying condition of soliciting parochial assistance, have turned their minds to fraud; and in the prosecution of their plans to obtain the means of support, the sacrifice of human lives is a secondary consideration. The quack trade has long been overdone, and the public so well acquainted with the tricks the "*humane* and disinterested proprietors" of nostrums have been so long playing, that the overflowing of that traffic have turned their minds to the adulteration of articles of food, even the very staff of life, so that it may with truth be said, "in the midst of life we are in death." Mr. Accum commences his work with remarks on the different kinds of

Water, and the method of ascertaining their purity. Water, perfectly free from any combination, is not to be found in nature. The proof of water being good, is its softness and clearness. When water is hard, it contains calcareous or saline matter, when it may also be perfectly transparent. By distillation, water may be freed from any mineral combination; and therefore, for a chemical process, in which accuracy is required, distilled water should be used.

Rain Water, when collected from a clean surface, differs from distilled water only in containing a greater proportion of carbonic acid gas, which renders it more salubrious.

Spring Water.—The combination of spring water depends on the soil. When it passes through a large body of sand, it is often nearly free from any foreign matter, as the Malvern water, and some springs in London, particularly in the neighbourhood of Saint Paul's churchyard. In some spring water the foreign matter is only held in solution by carbonic acid. This acid being dissipated by boiling, the articles with which it was combined are deposited, and the water, after cooling, becomes nearly pure, hence such waters fur the vessels in which they were boiled.

River Water.—In the water used in the metropolis, called New River water, Mr. Accum has discovered muriate of lime, carbonate of lime, and muriate of soda. These articles are not injurious to health, and the quantity it contains is so very small, as not even to deteriorate it for any domestic purpose, four gallons not affording a grain of each. The common sewers and drains of London emptying themselves into the Thames, one would suppose the water would be impregnated with a great variety of foreign matter, of the vegetable, mineral, and animal kingdoms; but it appears, from repeated experiments, that the compound matter conveyed to the river has no perceptible influence on the water, probably in consequence of its immense body, and its being constantly in a current state. Dr. Thompson, the scientific Editor of the Annals of Philosophy, on examining this water, referred certain results to the presence of lead with some animal matter.

To ascertain the presence of earthy salts in water, a solution of

soap in alcohol (tincture of soap) is employed. If the water contains earthy salts, on adding a few drops to a wine-glassful, a white flocculent matter is separated, which speedily collects on the surface of the fluid. To ascertain the presence of lime, add to half a pint of the suspected water, twenty or thirty drops of a solution of oxalate of ammonia:—if a white precipitate ensues, the existence of lime is proved.

To detect iron, add to a wine-glassful of the suspected water, twenty drops of the tincture of galls.—If the water contains iron, it will exhibit a bluish black colour.

For detecting the presence of lead in water, the best test is the sulphuretted hydrogen gas, which instantly produces a brown or blackish tinge, if it contains the minutest quantity of lead. Mr. Accum supposes, that water is contaminated by the use of leaden cisterns and pipes. This opinion may be found in the works of Hippocrates, Galen, and many ancient writers, as well as in several modern publications. Dr. Lambe has lately condemned the use of lead in the strongest terms; and yet leaden cisterns, pipes, and pumps, are more common than any other in this country. Distilled water certainly acts on lead, but it does not appear that the river waters used in this metropolis, have any effect on it. About six years ago, we disposed of an old leaden cistern, which had been in use in the family for nearly two hundred years, which weighed only four ounces less than it did when it was made; and this loss was afterwards accounted for on examining the paint, &c. which had been removed from its surface by scraping, a quantity of lead being found with it. During the time this cistern was in use, many millions of gallons of water must have passed through it, so that if the four ounces it had lost had been taken up by the water, the proportion could not have exceeded one grain in a thousand gallons. If a person can take two grains of acetate of lead into the stomach with impunity, surely it cannot then be said that water is rendered unfit for culinary purposes, by the use of leaden cisterns. If water were kept in a leaden vessel many weeks, it might certainly so far act on it as to imbibe an injurious quality. In the pump rooms at Cheltenham, leaden pipes are employed to convey the mineral waters from a considerable distance, and that too by a man who boasts of a superior knowledge of chemistry. Some of the saline waters unquestionably act on lead, particularly those that contain the sulphate of soda, carbonic acid, &c. The impropriety of using such tubes, we pointed out to the learned chemist; but as economy, and the means of turning every thing to an advantage, formed the principal part of his study, he did not think it absolutely necessary to remove them.

On examining the different waters used for the ordinary purposes of life by the tests noticed above, they will be found to differ from each other. Some contain saline and earthy matters, whilst others are nearly pure. The difference arises from the solvent power water exercises upon many substances with which it meets. When a well is lined with bricks, the water is rendered hard by its action on them.

Wines.—Mr. Accum is of opinion, that no article of commerce is more adulterated than wines. Alum is added to young and meagre red wines to brighten their colour. Brazil wood, the husks of elder berries and bilberries (imported from Germany, under the name of berry dye,) are employed to give a deep rich purple tint to red port. Gypsum is used to render cloudy white wine transparent; and oak-wood saw-dust to render it astringent. By such means, a mixture of bad port wine (sold for the duty) and home-made wine, is often puffed off as "Genuine *old* port wine." To communicate particular flavour to poor wines, different articles are used.—Bitter almonds to produce the peculiar kernel bitter; the tincture of raisins to give richness to port wine; sweet briar, orris root, clary, cherry-laurel water and elder flowers, to produce the *boquet* of high-flavoured wines.

The "*crusting*," which is considered as a proof of *old wine*, is produced by lining one side of the interior surface of the empty bottles with red tartar and finely powdered Brazil wood. The extremities of cork are also stained by a solution of red tartar in a decoction of Brazil wood. The most deleterious article that is added to wine is the acetate of lead, commonly called sugar of lead. This article prevents weak wine from becoming acid, and renders muddy white wine, transparent. It also recovers ropy wine. Wine merchants contend that the whole of the lead is deposited, but chemical analysis proves the contrary, and the practice is therefore highly deleterious; for although, as we stated above, two grains of sugar of lead may be swallowed with impunity, the *daily* use of a very small quantity of lead is capable of paralysing the stomach and bowels, and occasioning the most distressing colic. For detecting the presence of lead in wine, water saturated with sulphuretted hydrogene gas, acidulated with muriatic acid, is employed. By adding one part of it to two of wine, or any other liquid, a dark-coloured or black deposit will ensue, which will not disappear on adding muriatic acid, if lead be present. This test will not precipitate iron.

The artificial colouring of wine may be detected by the acetate of lead. When the juice of the bilberries or elderberries, or logwood is used, the addition of acetate of lead produces a deep blue deposit. If red sanders, Brazil wood, or the red beet has been employed, the deposit will be red. Wine coloured by beet root is rendered colourless by lime water, but an addition of an acid will again render it red. Paper stained by genuine Port wine is rendered more red by an acid, and greenish by a solution of potass. The component parts of different wines, and the quantity of ardent spirit they afford on distillation, we have noticed in a former number.

Bread.—Alum is employed to render this article white, which many old women suppose to be a proof of its being good. The quantity generally used is from three to four ounces to a sack of flour. The bakers of London assert positively, that without this addition it is not possible to make a saleable bread. This circumstance accounts for people becoming costive after residing a few days in London. Another article used by bakers is the carbonate

of ammonia. This article, Mr. Accum says, is "totally volatilised during the operation of baking," and that "a vestige of it does not remain in the bread." Now the carbonate of ammonia is *never* used without alum; and this article being a supersulphate, the sulphate of ammonia is formed before the loaves are put into the oven, and the carbonic acid gas is disengaged from the ammonia, which renders the bread lighter. The ammonia, therefore, instead of being dissipated, forms a neutral salt with the excess of acid in the alum, more wholesome than the culinary salt, being a better promoter of digestion, and which also counteracts the constipating effects of alum. If alum were not used with the carbonate of ammonia, the ammonia would not be dissipated from the *interior* of a loaf by the heat of an oven; and the bread so made, although a very small quantity be used, emits an offensive pungent odour, which renders it inedible. These facts we have ascertained by repeated experiments. Potatoes, and bean and pea flour, are also used by the *cheap bakers.*

The presence of alum in bread may be detected by the following experiment:—Pour on two ounces of the suspected bread half a pint of boiling *distilled* water; boil the mixture for a few minutes, and filter it through unsized paper. Evaporate the fluid to about one-fourth of its original bulk, and drop into the clear fluid a solution of the muriate of barytes. If a *copious* white precipitate ensues, not disappearing on the addition of *pure* nitric acid, the presence of alum may be suspected. Bread made without alum produces, when treated in this manner, merely a slight precipitate from a minute portion of sulphate of magnesia, which the common culinary salt contains.

"There is no unequivocal test for detecting in a *ready manner* the presence of alum in bread, on account of the impurity of the common salt used in the making of bread. If we could, in the ordinary way of bread making, employ common salt, absolutely free from foreign saline substances, the mode of detecting the presence of alum, or at least one of its constituent parts, namely, the sulphuric acid, would be very easy. Some conjecture may, nevertheless, be formed of the presence, or absence, of alum, by assaying the infusion of bread, and comparing the assay with the results afforded by an infusion of home-made or household bread, known to be genuine, and actually assayed in a similar manner."

Beer.—Malt liquors, Mr. Accum asserts, are "among those articles in the manufacture of which the greatest frauds are frequently committed. The laws prohibit brewers from using any ingredients except malt and hops; but it too often happens," says Mr. Accum, "that those who suppose they are drinking a *nutritious* beverage, made of these ingredients only, are *entirely* deceived." Now the case is, that porter was originally composed of *several* articles, and it is impossible to make a beverage similar to it with hops and malt only. It must be coloured and flavoured to please the palate of the drinkers of the article, and the ingredients used for these purposes, (chiefly burnt sugar,) are less injurious to the health than the fer-

mented infusion of malt, combined with the latter quality of the hop. But, says Mr. Accum, *copperas* is also used!! This article is the sulphate of iron, commonly called salt of steel, which is much used in medicine as a tonic. A gallon of porter does not contain one eighth of a dose of the article. It has been said, that it may prove injurious to those porter drinkers whose constitutions are disposed to inflammatory action; but if such habits are allowed to take a pint of porter, surely the sixteenth part of a grain of salt of steel, or sixtieth part of a dose, could not prove hurtful. The case is, that porter is rendered more salubrious by this addition, inasmuch, small as the proportion is, it may counteract the baneful effects of the fermented liquor, and anodyne quality of the hop.

With respect to the articles used by ale and table beer brewers, we really cannot point out one more injurious to health than hops and malt. The hop is unquestionably a powerful anodyne, and as poisonous as the cocculus indicus; and the spirit obtained from the vinous fermentation of the hop, is highly injurious to the stomach and nervous system. The strongest ale is a weak wine, which is very liable to run into the acetous fermentation in the stomach; and the acid which is thus produced is generally so powerful as to inflame the gullet and act on the teeth on being vomited. All ale drinkers are therefore subject to flatulence, acidity, and a long train of nervous complaints; and they generally fall a sacrifice to organic disease of the stomach or liver, the effect of the acid and spirit; or, to apoplexy, the consequence of the anodyne operation of the hop.

To say that ale is nutritious, is stark nonsense. What little nutriment it can afford, is derived from its mucilage; now a gallon of ale does not produce so much mucilage as a mouthful of bread. Ale drinkers often become corpulent in consequence of the anodyne effects of the hop, rendering the circulation languid; but such corpulency is unhealthy, and often terminates in dropsy or apoplexy. That the legislature had the health of the community in view when they made a law to prohibit brewers from using any other article than malt and hops, in making malt liquor, we will not deny; but that they also had in view the increase of the revenue, the duty on these articles produce, no one will deny; and if the duty were taken off, should we hear any more of prosecution for evading the act? During the reign of Queen Ann, the use of hops was prohibited by an Act of Parliament, under a severe penalty, in the making beer, on account of its poisonous quality. One fact stated by Mr. Accum worthy of notice is, that the porter he procured from the *maker*, afforded, on distillation, a greater proportion of alcohol than that he obtained from the *retailer*, obtained from the same quarter. This is a pretty strong proof that retailers do reduce the article, probably by the addition of water as they are not allowed to keep table beer. The receipts for making different malt liquors, given by Mr. Accum, appear in one of our early Numbers.

In the articles on tea and coffee, instead of noticing their chemical products and medicinal effects on the stomach, he confines his observations to the practice of adulterating the former with the dried leaves of different shrubs and plants of this country, and the latter

with burnt peas, &c. We would ask Mr. Accum why this country should not produce leaves as beneficial to health as China, or any other? and why burnt wheat, or peas, should not be as wholesome as burnt coffee? The fact is, that the China tea is rendered more salubrious, or rather its pernicious quality is diminished by the addition of the dried leaves of the sloe, the elm, &c. On this subject we have expatiated in our last Number.

In the article on spirits, although extended to many pages, we cannot discover one observation worthy of notice. So far from condemning retailers of spirits for diluting their articles, we really commend them for it. Surely Mr. Accum will not contend that in passing a law to compel all venders of spirits to sell the articles of a certain strength, the legislature had solely the *health* of the public in view. How many lives have been shortened by selling strong gin to the labouring poor! The effects of the alcohol it contains, on the morals of the lower class, have been most dreadful, and in our opinion more to be lamented than that on their constitutions.

Cheese.—In the Gloucestershire cheese, Mr. Accum states he has detected lead, which he afterwards ascertained had been used to sophisticate arnotto. On this subject he introduces the following letter from Mr. J. W. Wright, of Cambridge.

"As a striking example of the extent to which adulterated articles of food may be unconsciously diffused, and of the consequent difficulty of detecting the real fabricators of them, it may not be uninteresting to relate to your readers the various steps by which the fraud of a poisonous adulteration of cheese was traced to its source.

"Your readers ought here to be told, that several instances are on record, that Gloucester and other cheeses have been found contaminated with red lead, and that this contamination has produced serious consequences. In the instance now alluded to, and probably in all other cases, the deleterious mixture had been caused ignorantly, by the adulteration of the anotto employed for colouring the cheese. This substance, in the instance I shall relate, was found to contain a portion of red lead; a species of adulteration which subsequent experiments have shewn to be by no means uncommon. Before I proceed further to trace this fraud to its source, I shall briefly relate the circumstance which gave rise to its detection.

"A gentleman, who had occasion to reside for some time in a city in the West of England, was one night seized with a distressing but indescribable pain in the region of the abdomen and of the stomach, accompanied with a feeling of tension, which occasioned much restlessness, anxiety, and repugnance to food. He began to apprehend the access of an inflammatory disorder; but in twenty-four hours the symptoms entirely subsided. In four days afterwards he experienced an attack precisely similar; and he then recollected, that having, on both occasions, arrived from the country late in the evening, he had ordered a plate of toasted Gloucester cheese, of which he had partaken heartily; a dish which, when at home, regularly served him for supper. He attributed his illness to the cheese. The circumstance was mentioned to the mistress of the inn, who expressed great surprise, as the cheese in question was not

purchased from a country dealer, but from a highly respectable shop in London. He, therefore, ascribed the before-mentioned effects to some peculiarity in his constitution. A few days afterwards he partook of the same cheese; and he had scarcely retired to rest, when a most violent colic seized him, which lasted the whole night and part of the ensuing day. The cook was now directed henceforth not to serve up any toasted cheese, and he never again experienced these distressing symptoms. Whilst this matter was a subject of conversation in the house, a servant-maid mentioned that a kitten had been violently sick after having eaten the rind cut off from the cheese prepared for the gentleman's supper. The landlady, in consequence of this statement, ordered the cheese to be examined by a chemist in the vicinity, who returned for answer, that the cheese was contaminated with lead! So unexpected an answer arrested general attention, and more particularly as the suspected cheese had been served up for several other customers.

"Application was therefore made by the London dealer to the farmer who manufactured the cheese: he declared that he had bought the anotto of a mercantile traveller, who had supplied him and his neighbours for years with that commodity, without giving occasion to a single complaint. On subsequent enquiries, through a circuitous channel, unnecessary to be detailed here at length, on the part of the manufacturer of the cheese, it was found, that as the supplies of anotto had been defective and of inferior quality, recourse had been had to the expedient of colouring the commodity with vermilion. Even this admixture could not be considered deleterious. But on further application being made to the druggist who sold the article, the answer was, that the vermilion had been mixed with a portion of red lead; and the deception was held to be perfectly innocent as frequently practised, on the supposition that the vermilion would be used only as a pigment for house-painting. Thus the druggist sold his vermilion in the regular way of trade, adulterated with red lead to increase his profit, without any suspicion of the use to which it would be applied; and the purchaser who adulterated the anotto, presuming that the vermilion was genuine, had no hesitation in heightening the colour of his spurious anotto with so harmless an adjunct. Thus, through the circuitous and diversified operations of commerce, a portion of deadly poison may find admission into the necessaries of life, in a way which can attach no criminality to the parties through whose hands it has successively passed."

On the colouring matter of cheese we have made some observations in a late number.

The presence of lead in cheese may be detected by macerating a portion of the suspected cheese in water impregnated with sulphuretted hydrogen gas, acidulated with muriatic acid. If the cheese assumes a brown or black colour, the presence of lead is evident.

Black Pepper.—This article is often mixed with factitious corns, composed of linseed meal, common clay, and Cayenne pepper. On throwing a handful of the suspected pepper in a bowl of water, the artificial pepper will fall to a powder, whilst the true pepper

remains whole. Mr. A. *(who is employed by the excise to examine articles suspected to be adulterated)* found black pepper to contain sixteen per cent. of the artificial corns. Ground pepper, Mr. Accum states, is often adulterated by adding the pepper dust from the sweeping of pepper warehouses, mixed with Cayenne pepper. He adds, this composition is sold under the name of P. D. The article sold under the name of P. D., for the purpose of adulterating pepper, is the ground husks of mustard seed, which remain after making the flour of mustard; and with this article the artificial pepper-corns are also made. This information Mr. Accum might have obtained from any wholesale dealer in pepper.

White Pepper.—The common white pepper, Mr. Accum states, is made by first steeping the black pepper in sea water and urine, and then exposing it to the heat of the sun, till the rind or outer bark loosens. It is then taken out of the liquor, and after being dried, rubbed between the hands till the rind falls off. Now the fact is, that the common white pepper is obtained from the same tree as the black. The black is gathered when green, and on drying, shrivels and becomes black. The other becomes white as it arrives to maturity, and continues plump; the latter is therefore the strongest. The difference in the price is so very trifling, that no person would take the trouble of bleaching the black pepper, according to the method noticed by Mr. Accum, which must considerably reduce its weight. Besides, by no such process can black pepper be rendered white and plump, so as to resemble white pepper. We suspect some old woman gave him this information by way of an hoax.

Cayenne Pepper.—This article, Mr. Accum supposes, is sometimes adulterated with red lead, "to prevent its becoming bleached on exposure to the light." This fraud may be detected by shaking it in a stopped vial, filled with sulphurated hydrogen gas, which (if it be so mixed) will change its red appearance to a dark blackish colour. That Cayenne was ever so adulterated, we have the authority of the greatest dealer in this article in London, to state, is not a fact. The only article with which it has been mixed is common salt, which is added to render the pods more easily reducible to powder.

Pickles.—The fine green colour of pickles, Mr. Accum asserts, is produced by copper; and to prove this fact, he gives quotations from works entitled the Lady's Library, Modern Cookery, and the English Housekeeper, in which, boiling halfpence or verdigris is recommended, to render the pickles green. The bright light green appearance of foreign pickles, has often induced us to suspect that it was produced by copper, but we never detected its presence in any of them. To discover if copper be employed, cut the pickled articles into very small pieces, and pour on them diluted liquid ammonia (in a stopped bottle;) if the liquid assumes a blue colour, the presence of copper is proved.

Vinegar.—This article is sometimes adulterated with oil of vitriol. The presence of this acid is proved, if, on the addition of a solution of acetite of barytes, a white precipitate is formed, which is insoluble in nitric acid, after having been rendered red hot in the

fire. Vinegar, distilled in the common way, sometimes contains a proportion of lead, in consequence of passing through worms made of pewter. This impregnation may be detected with the sulphuretted hydrogen, as recommended for detecting lead in water.

Cream is often adulterated in London, with the jelly of rice, or arrow root. When so mixed, an addition of a solution of jadine produces a dark blue colour, whilst genuine cream exhibits a faint yellow tinge.

Confectionary.—The inferior sweet-meats, hawked about in the metropolis, are mixed with the white pipe clay, and the red are coloured with vermilion, which is often adulterated with red lead. The green are coloured with copper. Sap green is, we believe, used for the latter purpose, which is innocent.

Catsup.—In this article Mr. Accum has often detected copper, in consequence of its having been made in copper vessels.

Custards are rendered poisonous by using the cherry laurel leaves. To refute the opinion that has very generally prevailed, that these leaves cannot prove injurious in consequence of the small quantity that is used, Mr. Accum notices an instance of four children having suffered most severely from eating custards flavoured with them. The distilled water of these leaves mixed with spirit, Mr. Accum states, is frequently sold under the name of noyeau. We believe that the peach leaves are *always* used for the latter, and very frequently for the former purpose.

Fish Sauce.—Sauces for fish, Mr. Accum thinks, often contain lead, in consequence of the Venetian red being employed to colour them, which is often adulterated with lead. Now as red lead is dearer than the Venetian red, it is not probable that it is employed for such a purpose.

Lozenges.—These articles are mixed by sordid makers with the white pipe clay.

Olive Oil.—This article is rendered deleterious in consequence of being expressed between leaden plates, and being kept in leaden cisterns. Rancid oil will act on lead, but fresh oil will have no effect on it. The presence of lead may be detected by agitating it with two or three parts of water, impregnated with sulphuretted hydrogen. If lead be present, a dark-brown colour will be produced.

Mustard.—The article sold under the name of Durham mustard, is a mixture of flour of mustard, Cayenne pepper, and bay salt, made into a paste with water. Some add horse-raddish seed, and pea flour. The fine yellow colour of mustard is not produced by adding tumeric, as many writers have asserted.

Lemon Acid.—The article sold under the name of concrete lemon acid, or citric acid, is often mixed with the tartaric acid, which is not one-fourth the value. To discriminate the former from the latter, it is only necessary to add a saturated solution of the suspected acid, to a concentrated solution of muriate of potash, taking care that the solution of the acid is in excess. If a precipitate ensues, the fraud is obvious, because citric acid does not produce a precipitate with a solution of muriate of potash.

Or, by adding to a saturated solution of tartrate of potash, a saturated solution of the suspected acid, in excess, which produces with it an almost insoluble precipitate in minute granular crystals. Pure citric acid produces no such effect when added in excess to tartrate of potash.

Mushroom Catsup.---This article is, Mr. Accum thinks, often bad in consequence of having been made from putrid mushrooms, "inhabited by myriads of insects."

Soda Water is often rendered deleterious in consequence of being made in an apparatus connected by copper screws, &c. Mr. Johnston, of Greek Street, Soho, first pointed out the source of the injurious combination, and has in consequence employed silver instead of copper, on which neither the carbonic acid gas nor the soda acts; hence the faculty has given a preference to the soda water prepared by him.

Food is often rendered pernicious by being dressed in copper or leaden vessels. This fact is so well known, that such vessels, without a tin coating, have long been banished from the kitchen.

We have given the substance of Mr. Accum's work, in compliance with the requests of many respectable correspondents. We must confess the work has by no means answered our expectation, and we suspect that it was written more to please a certain class of his friends or employers, than to benefit the public.

That the practice of adulterating articles of diet exists to the extent the author insinuates, so that "Death is in the pot," he has certainly failed to convince us.

MEDICAL EXCURSION *to* CHELTENHAM, &c.—During my stay at Cheltenham, which was only a few hours, I visited the different springs, and the laboratory of a maker of a *variety* of Cheltenham salts, *all* of which, the learned proprietor contended, contain the virtues of the aperient chalybeate spring!—He talked much of the superior quality of his magnesia and his magnesian salts. The former was the coarsest of the kind I ever saw, and the latter I found to be nothing but the common *Epsom salt*, which may be purchased at *3d.* a pound!! This *self taught chemist* had been so fortunate as to discover on his estate, several different springs, affording a variety of the aperient chalybeate water, adapted to delicate and robust constitutions, a sulphurous one and a chalybeate one, *all* of which, by means of pipes or vats, or something more, are conveyed to a pump room. The trade had proved very productive to the proprietor, and to a resident physician of a highly respectable moral character, or rather philosophical feelings, who entered so completely into the spirit of it, as to often prescribe the waters with such precision as to order, in cases of peculiar delicacy, a *mixture* of the different chalybeate aperients!! The old and a new well were in great repute, the waters of which were evidently native. I afterwards called on Mr. Bevan, a respectable chemist, in the High Street, to examine the salts he procured, by a new process, from the native water, which I found to possess all its medicinal properties in perfection. The following day I accompanied a friend to the city of Gloucester. A saline spring having been discovered near

this city, a pump room has lately been erected, and some pleasant walks and gardens made to entice visitors to the waters. Although the morning was remarkably fine, there was not a customer there. The old lady, who superintended it, was neither so happy in her observations on its quality, nor so well acquainted with chemistry or compounding, to treat her visitors with the varieties adapted to the nature of the complaints, or the delicacy, &c. of the constitutions. Notwithstanding, the water was highly extolled by the medical gentlemen of the city, and an analysis of it by Mr. Accum was exhibited in the pump room, it did not prove attractive even to the good people of Gloucester. It appears to be very similar to the Leamington Spa. The old woman thought the situation was much too low, and too near the city, to afford a healthy residence for invalids. It should, said she, emphatically, have been out of the smoke of the city. Gloucester, within a few years, had lost three medical characters, who were in no respect inferior to the first practitioner in Europe. Dr. Cheston was a man of great practical information, and the specimens of organic disease he collected were very valuable and highly creditable to him. His museum contained a preparation, which no other in the known world can produce; viz. a fœtus, upwards of forty years of age. The face which exhibited the appearance of old age, was of the size of a new born infant—Did its brain arrive to maturity, and what were its intellectual operations? It seems the mother, after going her full time of gestation, was taken in labour. Before it far advanced, the uterus gave way, and the contents escaped into the abdomen. The lacerated parts healed, and the patient lived upwards of forty years. Dr. Cheston opened the body, and found this aged child lying near to the uterus, surrounded by the membrane in which it escaped, very much thickened. Mr. Trye was a surgeon of great skill, ingenuity, humanity, and extensive reading. He was highly respected by men of science, and his society was much courted by the leading characters of the county. Naylor was also a man of great practical and scientific attainments. The loss of these three great men within the space of a few years, was not only much lamented in the city and county of Gloucester, but in the medical world. Their places have been ably filled by Dr. Barron and Mr. Fletcher, who deservedly enjoy the full confidence of the friends of their predecessors. The former gentleman has recently afforded an opportunity of forming an estimate of his professional abilities by a publication on hydatids, &c., which I hope you will notice in an early number. The Infirmary is kept remarkably clean. The patients appear to be thankful for the attention they received from their medical attendants and nurses, and the liberal subscriptions are highly creditable to the gentlemen of the county, and to the clergy in particular. My next visit was to Ledbury. Here I was requested, by a friend, to see a patient, whose case had been declared to be hopeless. He was indeed in a most distressing situation. Extensive suppuration had taken place about the neck of the bladder—the abscess broke into the rectum, the peritoneum and right groin, leaving sinuses through which the urine escaped. His general health had suffered so much,

that on first sight I concluded he was in the last stage of consumption. A short time after the bursting of the abscess, his friends sent him to Worcester, to be under the care of a surgeon, who does not hesitate to declare himself the leading surgeon of the place. This gentleman on each visit deigned to *look* at the diseased parts, but I could not make out that he had done any thing to cure them, or to improve his general health. After remaining in Worcester a few weeks, at a great expence, he humanely told him that he could do no more for him; advised him to direct his mind to a future state, gave him a prescription for a mixture to palliate his sufferings, and politely intimated to him, that for his attendance he should only expect ten guineas!! The mixture he prescibed for him consisted of peppermint water, camphorated julep, and Hoffman's anodyne spirit!!! With what other view this composition was ordered than to amuse the mind, I am at a loss to conjecture. Soon after the patient returned to his friends in Ledbury, he reported (with a fee) to this humane surgeon, the state of his local complaint and of his general health.

In his reply, he observed, "Most heartily do I wish it was in my power to hold out *any* probable prospect or means of amendment to the friends of my *suffering* patient, who appears approaching his *eternal* abode, and for which, I hope, he is *daily* preparing. When he is in pain, you may give him twenty or thirty drops of laudanum, observing to procure a *proper stool* before you repeat the dose. His cough *will vary* according as the disease *directs itself* to the lungs, or *to the part it has been seated in for a considerable time*"!!!

"*Poor* fellow, he is *full* of disease. I beg to be kindly remembered to him, and if I never meet him again in this world, *I humbly beg of God, that, through faith in the merits of the Redeemer,* WE *may meet in a happier kingdom.*" Notwithstanding the prediction of this *humane and very good kind of man, as he is termed by some,* that he was *fast* approaching his eternal abode, the *poor* fellow's constitution resisted the progress of the disease three months, when he again acquainted him with his situation. To this letter, this Theologico-Chirurgeon replied, "I have ordered what appears to me most likely to *palliate* the internal complaint of my *poor* patient, after having well considered all the particulars of your letter respecting him. I regret there is so little to be done, to make the remainder of his life more comfortable; but I hope, that the *comfort* he lacks in the body *will be* SOUGHT AFTER *and obtained in the soul, through the Divine Saviour,* who *ever* liveth to make intercession for *every one* who cometh unto God, through him. *I hope your friendly attention to him will procure* for you a friend, in time of need."

Pure Christianity, Messrs. Editors, more than any other religion, tends to promote a humble submission to the decrees of Heaven, and even a cheerful contentment in this transitory world. It softens the bed of sickness, and beyond any other power, soothes the cold dead ear of death, by the hope it inspires of a happy immortality. A medical man therefore, can never appear in a more amiable point

of view, than when he is engaged in administering these comforts in a case that admits of no prospect of a favourable termination; but when we officiate in this character, we should take care to regulate our own conduct by the same precepts. Now this *poor* patient, as he is very properly termed, had been a weekly labourer, and for his support was then dependent on the exertions of a sister, who had also a mother to support. The Christian surgeon had visited the patient at his cottage before he went to Worcester, and was therefore not ignorant of his poverty. All the money his sister had saved by dint of industry and the strictest economy, amounting to about twenty pounds, to support her aged mother, she cheerfully gave to enable her brother, as she supposed, to obtain the best advice. The religious principles of this "good kind of man" did not interfere with his *pecuniary* concerns. He not only took the ten guineas, but fees, till the young woman had no more to give;—her all was exhausted. This was indeed realizing the abstract refinement of philosophers, that "*we were born* NOT *for ourselves, and live* BUT *for others.*"!! I shall refrain from making any comment on such conduct, because I find I cannot do it with temper. I must however ask, why was he not sent to the Infirmary? For the recovery of the patient I could not discover that any thing had been done or suggested, that was likely to effect it. I ordered a tonic mixture with an alterative pill, and as an injection for the sinuses, a weak solution of vitriolated copper (five grains to half a pint of water). The mixture had the effect of invigorating the stomach, and the lotion succeeded in diminishing the discharge from the sinuses, so that in a few days he was able to leave his bed and take a walk in the fields. I afterwards learnt, that by pursuing the plan I had laid down, the local complaints decreased rapidly, and his general health improved; so that, at this time, I hope he is nearly, if not entirely recovered. To me the case appeared by no means of a serious nature, and I did not hesitate to state in positive terms, that I would undertake to cure him if I had the opportunity of applying the injection every day.—*(To be continued).*

HOSPITAL PRACTICE.—"SIRS, The following specimen of hospital practice, appears to me to be worthy of all the publicity that your extensively-circulated work can give it. Whether similar cases be of frequent occurrence, you have a better opportunity of knowing than I have; this came under my notice casually, in the following manner:—

"A gentleman with whom I have some acquaintance, a gallant officer in the navy, on half pay, experienced a very sudden attack, (I will not say of what, for that the medical men did not seem to know,) by which he was deprived of the use of the lower extremities. A physician and an apothecary were called in; but finding after a few days, that he got no better, and foreseeing that his finances would soon be exhausted by the united efforts of these gentlemen, his friends residing 400 miles distant, and being desirous not to alarm them by making them acquainted with his situation; he formed the resolution of going into an hospital, flattering himself that he would there meet with the best medical attendance: in this however he

found himself miserably disappointed; as he was visited but once a week by the gentleman to whose care he was consigned. The negligent and indecorous (not to say brutal) manner in which certain of these gentlemen discharge their hospital duty, though doubtless well known to members of the profession, would not a little surprise some of your non-medical readers. I by no means intend this as an indiscriminate censure, as I know that there are honourable exceptions; but I would ask, what must be the effect of such an example set by men of the first eminence in the profession, on the characters of inexperienced youth?

"While the gentleman above mentioned was in the hospital, a very athletic Irishman, who had met with an accident, was brought into the ward in which he was. The young gentleman in attendance, having examined him, pronounced it to be a dislocation of the shoulder, and immediately despatched invitations to such of the pupils as were in the neighbourhood, to come and assist him in reducing it. About half a dozen of these gentlemen being collected together, they proceeded to action, when after having tortured the poor wretch nearly half an hour, by pulling the limb about with sheets, during which operation he was roaring with anguish, to the great relief of the sick and dying around him; these ingenious mechanics discovered that the sheets did not afford a sufficiently strong purchase to produce the desired effect. It was therefore determined to subject the refractory limb to the operation of the pulley; or, as my informant technically expressed himself, to clap a tackle on it, and bowse it in.

"As they were about to proceed up stairs (where I understand there is a place with suitable apparatus, appropriated to the purpose) to carry this design into execution, the house surgeon of the hospital happened to come in, who, having examined the patient, immediately declared that there was no dislocation, and he was dismissed without further infliction of the torture. If this poor fellow had been left to the care of these young gentlemen, he would in all probability, when cured, have found himself in the situation of Mr. Pettigrew's patient, with his arm a fixture: for there seems little doubt that they would have succeeded in producing a dislocation, if they had been suffered to proceed in the execution of their design, and they would then, no doubt, have thought that all was going on well. "I am, Sirs, Your's, &c.

"*London Jan.* 28th, 1820." "E. V."

The case to which our correspondent alludes, we received from another quarter. It is incumbent on the governors of hospitals to insist on the attendance of the surgeon of the week in serious cases of accidents. It is inhuman in the extreme to leave a patient to the management of young men, who probably never saw or heard of the case. For such neglect, the governors are as much to blame as the surgeons.

THE PUFFING SYSTEM.—"SIRS,—The laudable desire you have shewn in your valuable publication, to expose Quackery in every shape, from the puffing Physician down to the hand-bill Empiric, deserves the warm thanks of society, and it is hoped will make a due impression on the public mind. In this view, I would

beg to call your attention to a class of practitioners in this metropolis, whose advertisements are the prominent theme of the day, and which equally outrage delicacy and morals—I mean those who pretend to cure certain complaints by what they call *superior advice, professional skill, tried experience, and a long list of self-encomiums*, which have no foundation but mere assertion on their part for the purposes of deception.

"One of the oldest pretenders of this class is the noted firm of C—r—e and Co., an assumed name as belonging to several eminent physicians, like the daw in borrowed feathers, to entrap the ignorant. The founder of this house of accommodation is one of the name of B—r—n, originally a low apothecary in Seaford. This person found the pursuits of regular practice but a hopeless game, and that his whole stock, like the apothecary in Romeo and Juliet, consisted of a beggarly account of empty boxes. Tired of this *barren* prospect, he repaired to the metropolis as the land of promise and the seat of Gullibility. After some time spent in various plans what to do, he sat down in the city under the name of Dr. G—f—y, and gave his advice at no great distance from the 'Change, clothed in all the dignity of professional paraphernalia. The empirical name did not seem to answer his expectations, and some time after we find him opening the present concern in a street in the Strand, whence it came to be transferred in due time to the meridian of H—tt—n G—d—n. In conducting this business, this *Barren* surgeon seems better fitted than the original occupation of an apothecary, and to have known what is termed among the irregulars the trick of the trade; and of this we may judge by an anecdote mentioned by Mr. Astley Cooper, in his Lectures, of a noted Quack having had two hundred guineas for introducing a bougie, which I understand applies to this person. There is, indeed, no doubt, he has had large sums at times from the victims of his delusion, whose fears it is his practice to alarm in the first instance, or as technically termed, to *Curry* the mind, and afterwards to awaken their hopes in order to get his price out of them: so anxious is he about this, that if he succeeds in his aim at first, he has no desire to see them a second time. But with all this mine of wealth drawn from ignorance, indiscretion, and folly, and which has continued for some years, it has been barely sufficient to satisfy the wasteful appetite of this dashing personage; and in proportion to his success, his extravagance increased;—like Bonaparte, he spurned the original partner of his bed, and now attached himself to a dashing companion like himself, selected from the house of a gentleman in Suffolk, where she had the charge of the nursery: but he wanted the power of Bonaparte to do it with impunity; and the deserted wife, to whom he refused a shilling for support, claimed, on her turn, the protection of the law; here she was successful, and the law of Doctor Commons obliged him to make a retreat across the water, and leave his *Chere amie* and *Syphilitic* temple behind. But the vengeance of the court was not thus to be satisfied—it fixed his outlawry over his gate, and declared him an outcast for life from the British shores.

"The concern being thus left, what was to be done? His fair friend transported from a nursery, became in her turn elevated to the higher situation—the oracle of the temple, assisted by an old accoucheur, never acquainted with this line of practice. Doctor Slop became accordingly installed the attending Priest, to receive the deluded votaries, and to return the responses of this syphilitic divinity. To her superior judgment are submitted the daily cases of debility, atony, relaxation, and all other local defects for which she has, no doubt, a sympathetic feeling, and will offer the best restoratives of art in her power. But how completely ridiculous must this humbug scene appear that holds out *superior advice* and *superior professional skill*, when, withdraw the veil, it comes from the seam of a blue stocking, who must laugh at her own nonsense, and an old dotard who thus aids her deception. It is by this traffic then, that the wants of this outlaw is supplied, and that the farce is carried on, while his weekly draughts from the Continent exhaust the treasury of this noted establishment, and furnish laughter at British credulity: but much to the loss of the patients, this female oracle is not always at hand. She occasionally visits the Continent, when the burthen of the concern entirely falls on the shoulders of Dr. Slop, alias J—n P—h—y, accoucheur, whose experience in certain diseases he had laid entirely among the potteries. Such is the *superior* skill this seat of decayed energies of renovated manhood, and of all the mal-treatment of over mercurialization, can boast.

"With the above facts the Editors of nearly all the newspapers printed in London, are well acquainted. When a weak, credulous patient reads the puff in the newspapers, he supposes the whole to be true. Little does he think, when he sends his case, he is to receive his answer from such *scientific* hands. Although we are told the learned Dr. C—r—e has lately returned from his travels, with all the addition to his fund of knowledge the Continent could afford, he is not to be seen!!

"With the above statement the writer considers it his duty to acquaint the public, and after its publication, '*Qui vult decipi decipiatur.*' I am, Sirs, A FRIEND TO SCIENCE."

"*London, January 29th*, 1820.

This letter we received from a source so respectable, that we cannot hesitate to assure our readers that they may depend on every assertion being true.—Does not such infamous practices demand the interference of the legislature? Is it not truly ridiculous to find such *humane* characters as Mr. Wilberforce and Lord Sidmouth, exerting their intellects for arguments against the slave trade, when trade consisting in sporting with human life and feelings for the sake of lucre, is carried on under their own noses with impunity? In justification of the slave trade much may be said, but in favour of this species of quackery nothing can be urged. By abolishing the former, the comforts of the objects of it are not increased, their condition in life not improved, nor their mind enlightened; while by abolishing the latter, what a scene of human misery would be prevented! If the act would not extend their reputation to foreign

courts, it would be most gratefully felt in their *own country*, and would transmit their names as benefactors to the latest posterity.

TIC DOLOREUX.—Dr. Pemberton having received no benefit from the deliberate consultations of the Fellows and Licentiates of the Royal College of Physicians, determined to try what the surgical art could do for him. He accordingly solicited the attendance of Mr. A. Cooper, who it seems has talked much, wrote a little, but done nothing towards his relief. The symptoms, we are told, run high, and we are sorry to find that his general health has greatly declined in consequence of the frequent occurrence of severer paroxysms. A Quaker, some months since, told us, that after suffering most severely by this disease many months, and after having tried all the remedies that had been recommended for it, he cured himself by applying to the whole of the gum of the upper jaw of the affected side, a combination of tar and pitch; and by applying it spread on linen over the affected part. He also took ten grains of the composition (in two pills) twice a day. It was only removed from the gum during meals.

PREVENTION OF SMUT IN WHEAT.—Liming the seed by immersion is recommended by a French writer, as the *only* preventive warranted by science and sanctioned by experience, and the following is given as the method in which the process is best performed:—We employ English denominations.—To destroy the germs of the blight in 4½ bushels or 256 pounds of corn, about six or seven gallons of water must be used, as grain may be more or less dry, and from thirty-five to forty-two ounces avoirdupoise of quicklime, according as it may be more or less caustic, and according as the seed may have more or less of the blight. Make part of the water to boil, slack the lime with it, and then add the rest of the water. When joined, the heat of the water should be such that the hand could with difficulty bear it. Pour the lime water upon the corn placed in a tub, stirring it incessantly, first with a stick, and afterwards with a shovel. The liquid should at first cover the wheat three or four fingers' breadth, it will soon be absorbed by the grain. In this state let it remain covered over for twenty-four hours, but turning it over five or six times during the day. Such of the liquor as will drain off is then to be separated, when the corn, after standing a few hours, in order that it may run freely out of the hand, may be sown. If not intended to be used immediately, the limed wheat should be put in a heap, and moved once or twice a day till dry. Experience has proved that limed grain germinates sooner than unlimed; and as it carries with it moisture sufficient to develop the embryo, the seed will not suffer for want of rain; insects will not attack it, the acrid taste of the lime being offensive to them; and as every grain germinates, a less quantity is requisite. In fact, the grain being swelled, the sower filling his hand as usual, will, when he has sown sixty-five handsful of limed corn, have, in reality, only used fifty-two. As blighted grains preserve, for a long time, the power of germinating; the careful farmer, whose has been touched, should carefully sweep out the crevices in the walls, and cracks in the floors of his barn, and take great pains to clean them thoroughly; for the blight is so highly contagious, that from a

single grain will grow enough to blight an ear, which, in its
may infect a field; and, at length, cause the loss of the crop
whole country, as was the case in France, in 1784, and 1788.

GREEN HOUSES.—From Mr. Everon we have received
following directions for freeing green houses of the small green fly
other insects, which he states he has found to succeed better
sulphureous or tobacco fumigation. Cover the floor with
three inches thick; when the flues are hot, pour on them a mix
of water (three parts) and urine (one part) till the sand is m
Keep up a strong fire till the sand is dry, and then re-wet it.
doors should be closely shut.

TURNIPS.—Experiments made by Lord Thanet and Mr.
have convinced them that lime sown by hand, or distributed
machine, is an infallible protection to turnips against the ravag
the fly. It should be applied as soon as the turnips come up,
in the same daily rotation in which they were sown. The
should be slacked immediately before it is used, if the air be
sufficiently moist to render that operation unnecessary. T
gentlemen have communicated the foregoing fact to the Boar
Agriculture.

GRAFTING TREES.—A common method of grafting, i
making a transverse section in the bark of the stock and a perpe
cular slit below it: the bud is then pushed down to give it the
tion which it is to have. This method is not always successfu
is better to reverse it, by making the vertical slit above the trans
section, and pushing the bud upwards into its position—a me
which rarely fails of success; because as the sap descends by
bark, as has been ascertained, and does not ascend, the bud
placed above the transverse section, receives abundance, but w
placed below, the sap cannot reach it.

SUBSTITUTE FOR COFFEE.—Mr. Pybus, of Leeds,
published the following instructions for making what he t
"*English Coffee*"—"Roast any quantity of horse beans in a
frying-pan, over a clear fire till they begin to darken in co
and then from the point of a knife continue putting small bi
honey among them, stirring them all the time till they become
deep chesnut brown. On taking them off the fire, to a qua
beans immediately put an ounce of cassia buds into the pan,
stir them about till they get cool. After being ground in
manner of coffee, few persons will detect the difference.

"Rye torrefied with a few almonds, which furnish the neces
proportion of oil, may also be employed as a substitute for cof
Wheat may be substituted for beans.

GREEN TEA.—In Germany the leaves and flowers of the St
berry are substituted for Green Tea. Mr. Pybus gives the follo
directions for preparing them:—"The leaves with the flo
are to be gathered in the spring, while they are young,
only the smoothest and cleanest leaves selected, as they are n
be washed. They must be dried in the air, but not in the sun
drying them in the sun would lessen their flavour. To these le
the Germans give the appearance of China tea, by first pinc

their stalks clean off, then warming the leaves over the fire, rolling them up in the hand while they remain flexible, and drying them thus rolled. When the leaves are thoroughly dried the tea is fit for use, and on being made exactly in the same manner as China green tea, it is hardly possible to discover the difference. The young and tender leaves of the sloe tree or black thorn, when dried, afford a good substitute for the foreign tea."

TABLE BEER.—For the following receipt for making a good and cheap table beer, we are also indebted to Mr. Pybus:—

Boil four pounds of coarse brown sugar, three ounces of hops in ten gallons of water, in a covered furnace for three quarters of an hour, ferment the strained liquor with yeast in the usual manner. After being kept a week or ten days it will be fit for use.

THE TRUE SCOTS PILLS.—These pills are highly extolled by the proprietor, *as a remedy for "disease of the stomach and head, barrenness, worms in the intestines, costiveness attendant on pregnancy, ease in delivery, pain in the head by vapours from the stomach, bleared eyes, thirstiness, paleness, stone, scurvy, colic, dropsy, palsy, catarrhs, rheumatisms, gout, defluctions in the joints, and children and old age."*—They are also much recommended for "*being useful at sea, and to assist mineral and other waters, and sea-bathing.*" The proprietor adds, that so long since as the reign of William and Mary, the *excellency* of the medicine having caused numerous counterfeits, their Majesties graciously ordered the Secretary of State to issue an order, that "they were fully satisfied that Mrs. Inglish hath the only *true* receipt and right method of composition of the pills commonly known by the name of Dr. Anderson's, or the true Scots Pills." On examining the pills, we find them to be composed of aloes and a very small proportion of the essential oil of anise seeds. By the frequent use of such an aperient, from its stimulating effects on the rectum, the most serious consequences have ensued. The scirrho-contracted rectum, prolapsus, excences, and piles, are in most instances to be traced to the frequent taking of aloectic purgatives. In many of the complaints, for which it is recommended as a certain remedy, it is a most dangerous medicine, particularly costiveness attendant on pregnancy, barrenness, &c.; and instead of facilitating labour, they are certainly more calculated to retard it and increase its danger.—No aperient medicine has been more productive of mischief to the intestinal canal, and especially the rectum, than aloes. At this time we have patients who experience the greatest distress on having a motion, and others who can sit only half an hour at a time, even on the softest seat, from excrescences, in consequence of the frequent use of aloes. The proprietor boasts of the low price at which the pills are retailed—namely, one shilling a box; the contents of which could not cost him more than a penny!!

RYMER'S CARDIAC TINCTURE.—From the silence of the proprietor of this nostrum, and of his solicitors, we were induced to suppose that our plea had damped the ardour of the former, and our subsequent observations on the nostrum trade, and on the law of libels, had influenced the opinions of the latter, with respect to the result of a reference to a Jury of their country, as to the

damages their client had sustained, from the light we have thrown on the nostrum trade, and the exposure of the composition of the cardiac tincture. They seem to have recovered from the sudorific or anodyne operation of the plea, probably in consequence of having taken a cheering dose of this wonder-working *cardiac* tincture. It was with much pleasure we heard this forenoon, that they have made another display of their intention of prosecuting us for our unprovoked attack on the character of a *respectable* member of the profession to the fullest extremity of the law.—Now when a medical man, however high he may rank in the medical world, descends to advertise a nostrum, he is considered out of the pale of the regular profession; and if such understanding did not exist among us, there would be an end to the repectability of the profession. Some line of demarcation is necessary to enable the public to distinguish regular practice from the nostrum trade.—If the name of a surgeon appears in the list of quack medicines, which is published by government, as a proprietor of a nostrum, does not his name in the list of the members of the College of Surgeons, reflect disgrace to that body? In exposing the trade of quackery, we are actuated by no sinister motives. We are proud in being the first who have undertaken the arduous task; and no threats of prosecution shall deter us from going through the list of nostrums. The necessity of performing this promise to the public has been very forcibly impressed on the minds of many of our correspondents, by many circumstances that have lately occurred, and especially by a late verdict of a Coroner's Inquest, that a fellow-creature had lost his life in consequence of taking a nostrum.—After such a verdict, will any man of common honesty say, that in pointing out the *errors of quackery*, or the nostrum trade, we are not discharging a most important duty to the public? We have given directions to subpœna the President of the Royal College of Physicians, in case Mr. Rymer should carry his threats into execution, because by the charter granted to that body, they are required to suppress quackery and all dishonest practices.—Whether Mr. Rymer's trade falls under such denomination, is a question we confidently leave to the decision of "a British Jury."

MEDICAL PRACTICE.—So many impositions have been practised on young members of the profession, by pretended "agents for the disposal of medical businesses," we are much pleased to find that a gentleman of respectability and well-known honour and integrity, (Mr. Shee, of Southampton Row, land estate agent) has announced his intention of adding to the branches of agency to which he has hitherto devoted his time, that of medical agency. Gentlemen desirous of disposing of, or acquiring a practice, (either wholly or in part) may therefore treat with an agent, without being subjected to imposition.

PULMONARY CONSUMPTION.—In an article in our 48th Number under this head, there is a typographical error: instead of "carburretted hydrogen gas," it should have been "hydro-carbonate gas." The former gas diluted with atmospheric gas, has been inhaled in Italy by asthmatic and consumptive patients with the most decided advantage.

GAZETTE OF HEALTH.

No. 52. To APRIL 1, 1820. Vol. V.

Of Sir MATTHEW J. TIERNEY, M. D.

Physician to His Majesty, Senior Physician to the Brighton Infirmary and Dispensary, &c. &c.

This distinguished physician received the rudiments of his classical education in Ireland, his native country, under a private tutor, superintended by his father, who was highly respected for his literary acquirements. As soon as he became thoroughly acquainted with the Latin and Greek classics, his father sent him to London, to study the different branches of medicine, under his friends, Drs. Saunders and Babington, and Messrs. Cline and Cooper, at Guy's and St. Thomas's hospitals, where he pursued his studies with ardour, and displayed an originality of opinion, which secured for him the esteem of the pupils, and the friendship of the leading physicians and surgeons of those institutions.

On leaving the London hospitals, he obtained the appointment of surgeon to the Gloucestershire militia, the duties of which he performed with that humane attention and ability, which attracted the notice of his colonel, the late Earl Berkeley. His Lordship was so much pleased with his conduct, and the success of his practice in his regiment, that he not only appointed him his body physician and surgeon, but introduced him to the then Prince of Wales, who, in consequence of the handsome terms in which he spoke of his professional abilities, gave him the appointment of Physician to his household, immediately on his obtaining the degree of M.D. Soon after the introduction of cow-pox, he became acquainted with Dr. Jenner, and after giving the practice an extensive trial, became one of its warmest advocates.

In the years 1799, 1800, and part of 1801, he pursued his professional studies at Edinburgh, where he was much noticed by that distinguished and liberal professor, Dr. Gregory, whose son he vaccinated, the result of which gained many powerful advocates for the practice.

In April, 1802, after an examination by the professors at Glasgow, the honour of a degree of M. D. was conferred on him. The inaugural dissertation he wrote on this occasion, was on the subject of Cow-Pox. His Latin was peculiarly elegant, and the able manner in which he pointed out the advantages of vaccination, induced the professors to patronise it.

In 1806, the doctor passed the necessary examination at the London College of Physicians, and obtained a licence to practise within the limits of their jurisdiction. Two years afterward he married the amiable and highly accomplished daughter of the late Henry Jones, Esq. of Bloomsbury Square, a descendant of the celebrated Inigo Jones.

Under the zealous support of the benevolent Earl of Chichester, he contributed much towards the establishment of a vaccine institution in the county of Sussex. He was also instrumental in establishing a dispensary for the indigent sick, and an infirmary for general purposes, at Brighton, which has been productive of much benefit to the poor of that town and neighbourhood. For these services, and the benefit the Prince Regent derived from his advice, in a severe attack of gout, His Royal Highness conferred on him the honour of knighthood.

On the first attack of the late serious indisposition of his present Majesty, a messenger was despatched to Sir Matthew, at Brighton, by His Majesty's particular desire, to request his immediate attendance. Sir Matthew, finding that the inflammation within the chest ran high, urged the propriety of a copious abstraction of blood, to which some objections had been made, in consequence of his Majesty being of a gouty habit, and apparently somewhat predisposed to dropsy. The quantity first abstracted, although very considerable, not affording relief, and the bodily strength of the royal patient not being reduced by it, Sir Matthew firmly insisted on a repetition of the operation, which was accordingly performed, and the result was highly creditable to Sir Matthew,—the inflammatory symptoms being so considerably reduced by it, that in the course of the evening his Majesty was declared to be out of danger. The following day, Sir Henry Halford, who was also in attendance, being under the necessity of going to Windsor, observed to Sir William Knighton, that His Majesty would not bear a further loss of blood.

On the subsequent morning, Sir Matthew, finding that the inflammatory symptoms had advanced, gave his opinion, that a repetition of bleeding was necessary. Sir William Knighton, in consequence of the instructions Sir Henry Halford had left with him, expressed a doubt of the propriety of the practice. His Majesty most cheerfully resigned himself to the care of Sir Matthew; and the operation was accordingly agreed upon. Venesection being preferred to cupping, a surgeon was sent for; who, failing to open a vein after making two punctures, in consequence of the cellular membrane being loaded with fat, Sir Matthew took the lancet to perform the operation himself. In this attempt he also failed; on which His Majesty with a smile observed, "I am glad, Sir Matthew, that you have not been more successful than Mr.——, for had you succeeded, some blame might have been thrown on him." The operation of cupping was then resorted to, and the benefit His Majesty derived from it was so considerable, that every distressing symptom soon subsided, and His Majesty enjoyed, for the first time after his attack, refreshing sleep. The recovery of His Majesty is therefore chiefly, if not entirely, to be attributed to the judicious treatment adopted by Sir Matthew. In this case, the superiority of the physician educated in the School of Surgery and Pharmacy, (one who, by combining a knowledge of every department of medicine, is enabled safely to adopt a decisive practice in a case of emergency) is clearly evinced. Had His Majesty's case been consigned to the care of a certain class of physicians, who suppose that a knowledge of

surgery and pharmacy is derogatory to their dignity, and who modestly represent themselves to be the *only regular physicians*, the result would have been less creditable to the healing art. Instead of the means being proportioned to the nature of the disease, and to the vital importance of the parts affected, the loss of blood, (if approved of, which is very doubtful) would have been limited to a few ounces; and simple internal remedies, as combinations of oil of almonds, conserve of hips, &c., would most likely have been chiefly prescribed under some fine sonorous title.

The Author of "Authentic Memoirs of the most eminent Physicians and Surgeons of Great Britain," in his Biographical Sketch of Sir Matthew Tierney, observes, "the vicinity of Brighton to the metropolis, the salubrity of its air, with its other local advantages, has rendered it a favourite resort of invalids: and the frequent visits of the Prince of Wales, have established its consequence as the first sea-bathing place in the kingdom. In this school the present respectable individual has been bred, and with the lessons there learnt, and the connections there formed, he has now set himself down in the metropolis, and bids fair to rival, in time, many of the first men in fashionable practice."

MEDICAL ELECTRICITY.—Mr. La Beaume has published a work on this interesting subject, under the title of "Remarks on the History, Philosophy, but particularly on the *Medical Efficacy* of Electricity, in the cure of nervous and chronic Disorders, and various local affections, as *Blindness, &c.*"

This production, which we announced in our last number, merits the attention of the public at large, as well as of the profession, and especially of those who require medical assistance. The author has treated the various branches of this subject with his usual ability and candour, and with a precision and perspicuity seldom recognized in discussions of a scientific and in some degree novel subject.

The volume contains so many interesting and singular facts, and practical remarks, which throw much light on the science of medical electricity and galvanism, that we may safely recommend its perusal to men of science as well as to invalids. The author commences his dissertation with very judicious observations on the history and philosophy of electricity, and gives a brief but luminous view of its discovery and progressive improvement, pointing out its properties and the laws by which it is governed. He describes the apparatus employed in its application, and explains and supports, by arguments and facts, the well-grounded theory of the celebrated Franklin. From the sum of the interesting details, he concludes, that the matter of electricity is elementary fire, pervading the whole universe. This part of the subject contains some original ideas, conveyed in a clear and distinct stile, equally amusing and instructive.

The second part of the book is written with the same judgment and discrimination. On the medical powers of electricity, he observes, "since it has pleased divine wisdom to deposit in vegetable and mineral poisons, healing properties, calculated to cure disorder and invigorate health, by substances so *dissimilar* to those, of which the animal

machine is composed—surely, it can excite little surprise, to find in the electric fluid, which is a component of living bodies, a remedy still more efficacious for human diseases."

In order to explain the nature of the remedy, he notices, 1st, Its medical properties; 2dly, The diseases to which it is applicable; 3dly, The principles on which it acts; 4thly, The modes in which it should be administered; 5thly, The cases in which he has proved its efficacy, together with important remarks on cases where it *is not* beneficially applicable; and 6thly, The apparent reasons which have opposed its more general adoption in medical practice. Under the first of these heads, the author considers electricity as a powerful stimulus, "in which term, all its beneficial qualities are comprehended."—He infers its superiority to every other kind of stimulus, from its property of pervading the hardest substances, and passing through the internal parts of the human body, operating most efficaciously on the nervous, vascular, muscular, and secretory systems, and he classifies the disorders, to which electricity is applicable, under the heads of "nervous, chronic, cachectic, scrophulous and local." He observes, that as a natural excitant of the vital energy, "the application of electric and animal heat must expand, rarefy and invigorate; in short, produce the most beneficial change in a system where it is defective;" and at the same time, he shews, "that a diminution might be obtained, in cases where the body is charged with more than its natural quantity of electricity.

The long experience and unremitting attention of Mr. La Beaume to this important branch of science, have placed him under circumstances, which afforded him opportunities to make discoveries of inestimable utility. Accordingly, he states, that "I have discovered a method, by which I can with ease combine the employment of this subtile fluid in all its modes of operation, (except shocks) at one and the same time, and by a *threefold current*, concentrate its influence and action on the system and on the diseased parts, both as a *constitutional* and *local* remedy. In this way, electricity applies with an energy scarcely possible to be conceived, but which may be felt by old age or infancy without pain or inconvenience, and so immediate are its effects, that one *fourth* of the number of applications will produce all the benefits that can be obtained from any other mode, however long continued. It is observable in this passage, that there is an express exception in regard to shocks, a mode of application which he reprobates in common practice, as not only offensive to the patient, but also of no utility. This improvement in the administration of electricity, will prove a great saving of time and expence, and likewise accomplish a more rapid cure of disease, and a less trying task to the patience of the invalid. On the proper modes of application, he very justly observes, "it is not the mere mechanical operator that can dispense this elementary medicine with any advantage to society. He may, perhaps, stumble on success by a random chance, like a bow at a venture, but the odds are fearfully against him, or rather against his credulous patient, whom, without skill or caution, he subjects both to dread and danger. The charlatan-electrician, therefore, is more to

be feared than the empirical vendor of secret nostrums; because the former will often be led to employ this powerful remedy injudiciously in complex and difficult cases, while the drugs of the latter may with less danger be hazarded in functional derangements and sympathetic affections." The series of authenticated and well stated cases possesses great interest, and the following practical remarks deserve *particular* notice.

"Those disorders which arise from exhaustion or defective energy, and not from irritation or oppressed powers, constitute the class of cases in which electricity is most beneficial."

"The electric principle is peculiarly serviceable in cases where it is necessary to resuscitate the latent and almost sunk energies of animal life; but where a super-irritation exists in the system, and an indirect debility has the semblance of a direct one; where the sensorial or moving powers are diminished by a disorder of the digestive organs; depletion, and not repletion, is required. Apathy, and not super-irritability, is the best criterion for electrical agency."

"In diseases of a chronic description, it is necessary, to the successful employment of electricity, to ascertain whether the disorder be primary or secondary; whether the symptoms be connected with an actual disease of the parts where they are seated, or whether the disturbance existing in those parts be merely the products of some disease, the seat of which is in some remote quarter of the system. For, to regard symptoms solely, without any reference to their cause, is extremely hazardous, and has often led to the most disastrous results; whereas, on the contrary, an investigation into the cause of the indications of disease is frequently followed by the most successful results."

"In cachetic and scrophulous diseases, electricity is a powerful and beneficial remedy. The particular symptoms which characterize the stages of these constitutional maladies, as well as the local affections attendant on them, ought always to be traced, not only to their proximate but to their remote causes. In mal-conformation or organic diseases, electricity may possibly palliate the urgent symptoms. Where there is a constitutional predisposition from an hereditary taint, and where the accidental causes of improper diet, bad air, pernicious habits, and local disturbances, have induced actual disease and debility, and emaciation are consequent, with a depraved state of the whole or a great part of the body, we ought to distinguish the character of the debility; if it arise from inflammation, venesection must first be used, but when from exhaustion, tonics, a regulated regimen, air and exercise, together with electricity, will form a beneficial course of treatment."

"In the local application of electricity, much depends on the respondent capability of the subject acted on. If the state of the system is not adequate to local excitement, it must be oppressed by the existence of irritation. The power of electrical operations must be always nicely balanced to the susceptibility of the patient, and never exceed his power of endurance."

"To illustrate these last remarks which will be found of some importance, I would instance those cases of blindness and deafness

which are occasioned by paralysis of the optic and auditory nerves, both of which are really found to arise from two opposite causes: viz. compression of the nerves, or defect of their energy; the first occasioning an obstruction of nervous influence, and the second an exhaustion of the sensorial power. If the former exist, electricity instead of being beneficial may aggravate the malady; but if the latter, its influence as a tonic application must produce the most advantageous results, provided no morbid change shall have taken place in the structure of these nerves. But a topical treatment without regard being had to the state of the general health, to the recovery of which, if lost or impaired, the practitioner should always direct his chief attention;—if this, I repeat, be overlooked, all the efforts of the electrician, however proper in other respects, will assuredly prove abortive, at least in the majority of cases."

"The great evil has been, that many injudicious practitioners have regarded local affections as local diseases; an opinion which, though in many cases in accordance with the feelings of a suffering patient, is often very remote from the truth; for it is a well-known pathological fact, for instance, that defects both of vision and hearing are not unfrequently the mere consequences of some disease seated in some distant organs which affect the remote parts by sympathy. The common delusion of considering local affections as local primary diseases, has been productive of great gain to many ignorant practitioners, as well as to a host of empirics, who, reckoning on the credulity of the public, have always at hand an infallible nostrum for every ailment."

"The diseases to which the electric stimulant is applicable, may be comprehended under the generic character; of those which arise from defective energy, occasioned by a diminution, exhaustion, or suppression, of the powers of vitality. Philosophical physicians have generally applied this remedy in those complaints which spring from derangement of the nervous system:—as palsy in all its varieties, general and partial; loss of the sensorial powers, such as blindness, deafness, epilepsy, St. Vitus's dance. &c. Disorders also which affect the circulation; rheumatism, acute and chronic; sciatica, lumbago; gout, atonic and misplaced, retrocedent and irregular; chronic inflammation; obstructions, &c. In cases of muscular and tendinous contraction or relaxation, tetanus, lock-jaw, &c. In glandular affections, swellings, dropsies general and partial, and in every defect of action in the absorbents; constipation, scrophulous tumours, ulcers torpid, indurated and schirrous glands, and many surgical cases produced by accidental diseases. In short, electricity is applicable to many complaints, both constitutional and local, by its general influence on the system, or by its topical effects on diseased parts."

To this list of disorders, which fall within his department, he adds diseases incident to females; jaundice, diseased joints, and sundry others highly deserving of notice; and we are disposed to think, that the practical remarks, interspersed through the various branches of this interesting subject, constitute a considerable excellence of the work.

In noticing the reasons which have opposed the more general

adoption of electricity, he attributes them to the prejudice of the ignorant, and to the indifference and hostility of some of the faculty; the incompetency of practitioners, the inefficiency of bad machines, and other causes which he has pointed out with the honest frankness of a man of science. Though he is not wanting in his censure, where it is due, yet he observes, "that medical men in general, from their education, habits, and deep responsibility, possess as great integrity, practical virtue, and genuine humanity, as any body of men; yet it is no detraction from their general merit to assert, that there are some who are strangers to the influence of these feelings, and rather devote themselves to the *trade* than to the *science* of physic. It is by this class of practitioners, and this alone, that impediments of every kind have been thrown in the way of medical improvement; and who, without ability to appreciate the powers of electricity, have been uniform and incessant in condemning its use."

He concludes his remarks, under the head of electricity, as follows: "As electricity and galvanism are so closely connected with the animal functions of health, and as they have so much influence in many diseases, it is highly probable that in the progress of knowledge they will be found of still more importance, not only in physiology, but also in the treatment of disorders to which they have not been yet applied; and I cannot but flatter myself that some useful improvements will result to medical science, and benefits to humanity, from the diligent prosecution of the subject which I have attempted to illustrate. I should hail with rapture the dawn of that happy day, beautifully described by a modern writer of great talent and philanthrophy, 'When learning shall be greatly increased, and the useful sciences be fully understood; when professions shall be pursued for the benefit of mankind, and electricity arrive at that standard of perfection, when the tempest shall loose all its force, and the lightning all its terrors.'"

The observations on galvanism, although brief, are highly valuable. Mr. La Beaume, it appears, has for a considerable time past employed the galvanic fluid as a substitute for mercurial remedies in stomach and liver complaints with great success. In disordered respiration too, the beneficial effects of the galvanic application have been realized in an eminent degree. He says, "I have tried its effects, not only in asthma but in indigestion, chronic affections of the liver, and constipation, with complete success. Several patients, who had laboured under the former complaint more than twenty years, were relieved by the first operation, and cured within a few weeks. But, in cases of indigestion, the curative powers of galvanism have been so astonishing as even to surpass my own expectation. Numerous cases, combined with the most distressing symptoms, with palsy, hypochondria, vertigo, deafness, impaired vision, and a train of other afflicting maladies, have been cured in a short time. I therefore feel justified in asserting, that the whole Materia Medica may be searched in vain to find such a panacea as the galvanic influence in torpor of the stomach, liver, and bowels."

The book contains two copper-plate engravings. We do not hesitate to say, that this is by far the *best* work on the subject which

has yet appeared, and we therefore strongly recommend it to the consideration of our readers.

ABSTINENCE FROM FOOD.—Mr. Griffiths, an eminent surgeon of Wrexham, has lately communicated to Mr. Hutchinson, the liberal and scientific conductor of the Medical and Physical Journal, the following very extraordinary instance of survival of twelve days' abstinence from food.

"On the morning of the 27th of last September, an immense body of water, which had accumulated in one coal-pit, suddenly burst into another, where nineteen men were at work; sixteen of them were enabled to extricate themselves from the perilous situation which they were thus unexpectedly placed in, at a distance from the surface of one hundred and twenty yards. But, such was the quantity of water, and the changes it rapidly produced in the pit, that the remaining three were cut off from all means of escape. In the hope of being able to rescue these unfortunate people, every measure that could possibly expedite the discovery of them was unceasingly pursued. On the ninth day the bodies of two, who had been drowned, were discovered, and on the twelfth day some vestiges of the third man were traced; in a short time his voice was heard; and soon afterwards he presented himself to the astonished workmen.

"It appeared from his subsequent statement, that, when the water was rushing in an overwhelming stream towards the spot where he stood, he had only sufficient time to allow his gaining a situation above the highest level to which the water reached. In this place, which was a dark, low, close passage, communicating with two galleries, he remained for *twelve days*, without any other sustenance than a little water, which trickling down a rock, distant about twelve paces from the place where he lay, he collected in a hollow formed by his hand; to this he occasionally crept on his hands and knees, and at other times he relieved himself by merely changing his posture. He computed the period of his confinement to have been about *nine* days. For the first third part of this time he felt a considerable desire for food, which afterwards entirely ceased; and he only experienced an occasional painful sensation in the region of his stomach, which was always removed by drinking a little water. The greatest part of the time was spent in sleep, accompanied by dreams. Some of the functions of the body appear to have been nearly suspended, and others to have been very slowly performed. The bowels were relieved once only; there was no sensible perspiration; the breathing was slow; but the urine was voided in small quantities about twenty times. His mind suffered but little depression, except upon one point; in general it was at ease, and he felt confident that at the end of a computed time the water would be removed, and a communication with himself be opened: but, when he reflected upon the destitute and unhappy state of his wife and children, the powers of reason yielded to a pleasing hallucination: he thought that celestial sounds were near him; every unpleasant feeling ceased, and happier and more animating views employed his thoughts."

"At the moment he was found, and for some time afterwards, he

declined taking any thing more than a little dry biscuit; he was therefore merely removed to a warmer part of the pit, where I first saw him. He was in full possession of his mental faculties; his spirits were buoyant, and his feelings alive to the hearty congratulations of his companions, and to the anticipated pleasure of returning to his family. His face and figure were much emaciated;* there was an expression of wildness and famine in his countenance; his cheeks were flushed; his tongue was slightly furred and white; his pulse was regular, about 112, but very weak and small; and his extremities were cold. He complained of some degree of thirst, but of no pain: he had no wish to take food.

"Fearful of calling into sudden or violent action the accumulated irritability of the system, liquid food, of a mild nutritive kind, was administered to him in small quantities, and at stated intervals: although he took it with indifference, his stomach retained it. The circumstance of his deliverance, and his anxiety to see his family, excited his mind so powerfully, as to give an unexpected degree of tone and energy to his whole frame; of this I thought it right to avail ourselves, and to remove him from his present situation to some house, where we could better guard against the effects of that debility which might be expected speedily to result from his present state. He was brought up from the pit in a tub, so large as to admit of his lying down in it, lest a continuance in the erect posture might have induced syncope, under circumstances very unfavourable to his recovery. In this way he experienced very little inconvenience from his removal. During that evening, and the following night, he was ordered to take the yolk of egg, mixed with warm water and sugar, weak broths, gruel, milk, &c. in larger quantities and with longer intervals; and, once in three hours, part of a slightly-cordial mixture, containing a few drops of laudanum in each dose. The nurse was directed to awake him occasionally, if much disposed to sleep.

"*Sunday*, (the following morning.)—He has passed a tolerably comfortable night, occasionally slumbering. He has taken some quantity of food without any sickness. He now feels much exhausted; his pulse is languid, and reduced from 112 to 60 strokes in a minute. He has no desire for food: faintness comes on in the erect posture. He has voided urine. A more nourishing and stimulating diet was ordered. In the evening he was better, but suffered some degree of uneasiness from flatulency and heat. As his bowels had not been relieved for some days, the following mixture was prescribed:

"Take of Rhubarb Powder, 2 drachms;
Soluble Tartar, 1 drachm;
Tincture of Senna, 3 drachms;
Water and Infusion of Rhubarb, each 1½ ounce.

Mix. Take two table-spoonsful every third hour, until the bowels are opened.

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* On the fourth day from that on which he was found, he weighed twenty-eight pounds less than he had done some weeks previously. He is a muscular bony man, of the middle size.

"The operation of the medicine produced four evacuations of hardened black fæces, and afforded the patient much relief.

"*Monday.*—He is better; has passed an easy night with some sleep. His pulse is 84, and fuller. His appetite is returning. He complains of an unpleasant degree of heat in his feet. The same kind of diet is to be continued.

"*Tuesday.*—This morning I was requested to visit him as soon as possible, as he was much worse. I was informed, that, finding himself better on the preceding evening, and his appetite greater, he had taken solid food, and ale in small quantities: in consequence of which, he had had a very restless night; his skin had been hot and dry; his bowels distended and painful; his stomach oppressed; he had been thirsty, and at times delirious. Nor did these symptoms disappear, until the stomach had been relieved of its contents, and the bowels had been acted upon by an aperient. Two or three days of restlessness, heat, and langour, with diminished appetite, elapsed, before he recovered that point of convalescence which he had thus lost by his own temerity and imprudence. Such a degree of reaction took place in his feet and toes, as seemed for a short time to threaten the vitality of those parts.

"During the ten or twelve ensuing days, a variety of symptoms, chiefly arising from the different states of the alimentary canal, appeared. For a day or two the pulse intermitted, but was restored to its regular action by emptying the bowels. Nothing material, however, prevented his ultimate recovery; and his general health is now (Dec. 16th,) perfectly re-established. His last complaint was of a severe rheumatic pain in the shoulder, on which he had lain during the greater part of the period of his confinement in the pit, and from which he still continues to suffer at times.

"It may be asked," observes Mr. Griffiths, "were there any peculiar or local circumstances which could have aided the powers of the system in supporting life, for so long a period, under a deprivation of food, so entire? I believe," says he, "that, *providentially*, there were. The man's age 27; his bodily strength, his habits, and that self-possession and strength of mind which led him to an almost correct calculation of the time required for the removal of the water and other obstacles, and enabled him to wait patiently the expiration of that time, in a confident hope of being ultimately rescued, were advantages greatly in his favour. But, there existed also a local cause,—the peculiar kind of air which he breathed; and which, I am disposed to think, contributed materially to the preservation of life. From repeated examinations of the air in the pit, from my own feelings and observations whilst below, and from the man's description, it was ascertained that, with the water, a quantity of carbonic acid gas had diffused itself through the lower parts of the pit. The situation which the man occupied was an elevated one, and would therefore raise him above the more concentrated stratum of carbonic acid gas; but he was still aware that the surrounding air was heavy and oppressive: he said, 'that for the greater part of the time he breathed the *damp* air, but that it became better as the water lowered.' To enter again upon the particulars of the case, or to reason upon

the known properties of carbonic acid gas, and its effects under different modifications, would extend these observations beyond their proper limits. From the positive evidence of the man having breathed at atmosphere containing a greater or less proportion of carbonic acid gas, for twelve days, and from his having survived, may we not infer, that this gas, by producing a sedative effect on the system, by moderating irritability, and restraining action, prevented the active exercise, and consequent exhaustion of the vital powers, and thus proved conducive to the preservation of life?"

INFLAMMATION OF THE STOMACH.—The following case of this formidable disease has lately been published by Mr. Smerdon, Surgeon of Clifton, under the name of "Acute Rheumatism of the Stomach." On the 15th of May, 1818, Miss B. aged eighteen, delicate constitution, was attacked with acute rheumatism, principally in the ankles and wrists, attended with fever, furred tongue, great thirst, and constipation of the bowels. An aperient draught of senna was administered, and a bandage was applied to each ankle.

The draught operated violently. In the evening she was attacked with an excruciating paroxysm of pain; pressure over the stomach was acutely painful; the pulse was small, feeble, and frequent, attended with great prostation of strength, but no sickness. A draught of castor oil, with a few drops of laudanum, relieved her for an hour, when the paroxysms returned as severe as before. Mr. Smerdon then took a pint of blood from a vein, which flowed slowly, in consequence of exhaustion, and produced fainting. He directed the bowels to be fomented, and magnesia to be given at intervals.

The following morning the pain returned with increased violence; countenance expressive of great horror; extreme exhaustion, particularly between the paroxysms; bowels had been properly relieved; the pulse was very feeble and thready; great thirst; and the extremities cold. Twenty ounces of blood were abstracted, which flowed more freely; she fainted; no vomiting. Fifteen leeches were applied over the region of the stomach, and a purgative clyster administered. In the evening Mr. S. found her tolerably easy, with respect to acute paroxysms; but the slightest pressure on the epigastric region, and even motion of the body, occasioned great pain. The blood was buffy; pulse very quick and thready; the punctures of the leeches bled very freely; no sickness; the lavement having brought away but little fæces, the castor oil was repeated. On the following day (the 17th) she had no severe paroxysm, but pain on pressure over the stomach continued; the tongue was furred; countenance dejected; pulse very frequent and feeble, ankles and wrists very painful. Twenty grains of magnesia were ordered to be administered every four hours, and compound extract of colocynth and calomel, (six grains of each) to be given at bed-time.

The following night was restless; pressure over the stomach still produced acute pain; bowels had been scantily opened; the fæces were fœtid, and of a pitchy appearance; in other respects the same

as the preceding day. The castor oil was repeated. In the evening, the paroxysms of the stomach returned with such increased severity, that her screams alarmed the neighbours. After remaining in this state for about an hour, the disease was suddenly translated to the muscles of the larynx and contiguous parts. The throat was swollen; respiration laborious; the tongue was thrust forward, and she could not articulate. A pint of blood was extracted, which afforded great relief, but left her in a state of great exhaustion. Six pills, composed of calomel and antimonial powder, (of each five grains) compound extract of colocynth (ten grains) were administered.

On the 19th she complained of having had a restless night, but was tolerably free from pain; bowels had been freely opened. The fæces were very black; she had discharged a large round worm; the blood was buffy, and cupped; the pain on pressure over the stomach was very acute. In the evening the rheumatic (spasmodic) paroxysms came on with great severity, first in the extremities, then in the stomach and muscles of the tongue and throat; but were somewhat less durable. She had wandered much in her mind, and was greatly exhausted during the intervals of the paroxysms; she had taken a senna mixture with salts every four hours, which had produced several black and fœtid stools. The calomel pills were taken at bed-time.

24th, the rheumatic (spasmodic) paroxysms had gradually left the stomach and throat, but remained unabated in the ankles and wrists. The evacuation by the bowels had not improved in colour, and fever regularly continued at the usual hour. Being tired of taking the aperient mixture, the blue pill and cathartic extract were given every night, and an embrocation was ordered for the painful extremities.

On the 26th her bowels had been confined since last report, and consequently, she has not been so well. Her fever has likewise increased; she has had transient paroxysms of pain in the stomach, whilst that of the extremities had wholly deprived her of rest. A draught of infusion of senna, with six drachms of soluble tartar, was ordered to be taken immediately.

On the 27th she was in less pain, the bowels had been relieved, the fæces were black, the aperient draught was repeated.

On the 28th her appetite returned. A draught of the decoction of bark with soda, was ordered to be taken three times a day; and the compound calomel pill, six grains, compound gamboge pill, seven grains, divided into two pills, to be taken every night.

On the 1st of June the nocturnal pain and fever had increased, which Mr. S. attributed to the bark, which was accordingly omitted: five grains of antimonial powder were added to the night pills. This plan was persisted in with the best effect, till the 5th, when the nocturnal pains were so far reduced, and her general health so much improved, that medical attendance was no longer deemed necessary. On this case Mr. S. observes, "Here is a case of acute rheumatism, attacking the extremities of a delicate young female, in whom the functions of the stomach, &c. were faulty. The stomach being thus

rendered highly susceptible to the impression of whatever disease might be going on in another part of the body, was also attacked with rheumatism by translation from the extremities; but which it is presumed would not have happened had the organ been previously in a healthy state. The sceptic, who ridicules the modern theory on disordered digestive function, and who denies the probability of its being the cause of innumerable morbid sympathies, only because the chain which connects them is hid from his view, will consider my opinion entirely gratuitous. He may ask what proof can be drawn from the statement of the case for such an assumption? I answer, the apparent good derived from a long course of drastic purges, the continued black colour of the motions, and particularly the expulsion of a worm. Hence, during the fevers of different subjects, in one the brain will be affected with the inflammation, in another the stomach, in another the liver. Now are we not to infer from hence, that there are various proximate causes of fever, or that the cause is inflammation; but that each affected organ, previous to the febrile attack, was in a weakened state, and therefore rendered unable to resist the stimulus arising from a suddenly increased circulation?

"Rheumatic inflammation of the internal organs is, I believe, a very rare disease; probably, because they are not exposed to the vicissitudes of climate: that the case just narrated is one of acute rheumatism of the stomach, cannot, I think, be doubted; and likewise, that its cure was effected not by the common remedies for rheumatism, but by a persevering continuance of drastic purges.

"The anatomical structure of the intestines shews that two sorts of liquors are poured into them, which doubtless have not only their separate uses in the animal economy, but also their excess or diminution must be the sources of derangements of the general health. The glandular secretions being the products of more complicated structures than the secretions from mucous or serous membranes, are consequently more easily deranged, and when deranged, are more difficultly cured. Practice also points out, that, in general, very different sorts of intestinal evacuations are the products of saline and drastic or mercurial purges, and that in most cases, where the stomach, &c. are the sources of general derangement, as also in those where the secretions of the viscera are in an inactive state, (for instance, in primary fever) infinitely more good may be derived from the use of the latter than from that of the former, notwithstanding the products of each with respect to quantity shall be the same. Hence then it appears to me evident, that the more complicated structure of the secretory glands of the chyloporetic viscera (in which the liver may be included) requires when their action is sluggish or morbid, more powerful excitants than the simpler structure of the mucous membrane: the remedy for the one being the drastic purges, and for the other the saline.

"It must be acknowledged, I presume, that more diseases are curable through the medium of purgatives acting on the bowels, than by any other means whatsoever: hence the liver, being a complicated organ, the physiology of which is but imperfectly known,

has been considered the great cause of all those morbid affections of that general system which the action of purgatives is capable of relieving. This sweeping conclusion is not only inimicable to the improvement of medical knowledge, but is also become so generally adopted by the public, (at least of this country), that with them bile and diseases are synonymous terms. Easily deranged as the functions of the liver certainly are, (and which from the acknowledged importance of the viscus must lead to derangements of the general health), there are other organs belonging to the same system, of equal importance and equal delicacy. The large intestines, from their situation, great extent of surface, and the numerous glands which pour their liquors into them, are, I am convinced, well deserving the attention of the medical philologist*. Here the rejected matters from the upper bowels undergo an entire change; they lose their bitter taste; become feculent; and lastly, acquire consistency, and peculiarity of colour and shape. All these facts, however, would be of no consequence, if experience and observation had not proved, that a deviation from the healthy standard of any of these appearances of the evacuated matters, is always attended by a derangement of the general health.

"The bile is considered to be the sole cause of colour in the fæcal evacuations; but this opinion is grounded on a very feeble foundation, and indeed, an enlarged view of the subject, unprejudiced, must shew, that, although it be a principal colouring ingredient, it is not the only one. The bilious secretion of all animals is, I believe, chemically the same; consequently the fœcal colour of them all should be similar: but this is so far from being the case, that the intestinal excretion of every animal is peculiar, as well in colour as in figure and smell. Here then we have direct proof that something else must act upon the rejected matters to make them feculent, and this can no where be obtained but in the large intestines.

"In mice, which have neither gall bladder nor colon-valve, the bile is intensely bitter, limpid, and almost colourless. When the stomach of this animal is distended with food, recently received, the two first intestines, particularly the duodenum, have a very vascular appearance, and contain a quantity of bitter mucus. When this food has undergone the necessary change, and a portion of it has passed out of the stomach, the superior part of the alimentary canal contains a bland cream-coloured substance, here and there streaked with yellow, and very bitter. This appearance of the chylous matter, con-

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* "I am well aware that many diseases are curable by a well directed course of purgatives, the origin of which cannot be ascribed to the derangement of any one particular organ, but to a morbid action either of the sanguiferous or nervous system; the curative process in such cases is not very obscure: but in order to satisfy or blind the inquisitive, it is by no means unfrequent to hear medical men talking about the bile sticking to the kidneys, stomach, intestines, and even the lungs:—such language is truly ridiculous, and is deserving of the severest reprehension."

tinues as far as the lower part of the ileum, when it suddenly becomes very dark,—a colour which rather increases as we approach the extremity of the tube, whilst the fæces (as they now may be called) feel gritty, and to the taste have almost wholly lost the bitter principle of the bile. In the rectum they become hardened, and receive the form which we see when evacuated.

"These observations," continues Mr. S. "I presume, fairly warrant the conclusion that, as chylification goes on in the small intestines, so another process is performed in the large, betweeen the glandular and mucous secretion of the intestines, the rejected chylous matter, and the bile; and that this process alone gives colour and other peculiarities to the excretion of the bowels."

In the biographical sketch of Mr. Abernethy, given in our third volume (pp. 1001 and 1033), we have made some observations on the offices of the liver and the large intestines, in the animal economy. We have there stated our conviction, that the colon acts in conjunction with the liver in separating foul matter from the blood, and that they and the kidneys are the only depurators of the body. Mr. Smerdon's observations seem to confirm this opinion. With respect to Mr. Smerdon's *practical* observations on his supposed case of translation of acute rheumatism from the extremities to the stomach, and the susceptibility of a disordered stomach to impressions, they do him as little credit as his case of diabetes, on which we made some remarks in a former number. Because the pain in the ankles and wrists ceased when the affection of the stomach commenced, are we to suppose, that the disease was translated to the stomach, or that the complaint of the stomach was acute rheumatism? We would ask Mr. Smerdon, if he ever met with a case of inflammation of an organ, either of the chest or abdomen, which was not preceded by pain, more or less, in the extremities, or what are termed by *real* old women, "symptoms of having *taken cold*." Exposure to a cold or damp atmosphere is followed by different effects on different individuals. On those whose lungs are tender, or preternaturally irritable, it will probably produce inflammation of the lungs; on those whose bowels are tender, inflammation of the intestines; those whose brains are excitable, inflammation of the brain; and on those whose ligaments and membranes of joints and muscles are irritable, the disease termed acute rheumatism. The latter is the most common effect, probably in consequence of the parts attacked being more exposed to the action of the exciting cause, than the contents of the chest or abdomen; but when mischief takes place in a viscus, particularly in the lungs, stomach, or the brain, the rheumatic symptoms generally disappear in consequence of a determination of the part of nervous fluid, and of course of blood. The different effects of the same exciting cause, therefore, arise from the difference of the structure of the parts in which the mischief takes place; it is surely therefore ridiculous to term an inflammatory attack of the stomach, acute rheumatism, because the exciting cause first acted on the membranes or ligaments of the joints of the extremities.

In a late Number we have noticed a species of inflammation of the eye, very properly termed by Mr. Wardrope, rheumatic inflamma-

tion, but the seat of that inflammation is cornea, and the conjunctive tunic, the structure of which is similar to that of the membranes and ligaments of a joint.

If all the diseases that occur in the human body were properly named, instead of the catalogue amounting to hundreds, it would not exceed a dozen. The practice of medicine might be in the same proportion simplified. The doctrines of the metastasis (translation) of disease, particularly of rheumatism and gout, have induced inexperienced practitioners, in cases of internal inflammation, to adopt a treatment, with the view of driving it to the extremities, which has been productive of the most serious consequences. In cases of inflammation of the stomach or any other viscus, it is certainly advisable, by means of stimulants to the extremities, to produce a determination of nervous fluid and blood to them; but if stimulants be applied to the stomach, under the idea that the complaint requires the same treatment as when seated in a part of a different structure, or when it occurred in the extremities, the patient's life will probably fall a sacrifice to the practice. The effect of a cold or damp air on the membranes and ligaments of joints, and on the membranous covering of muscles, is only inflammatory excitement, by which we mean excitement of nerves, with a slight distension of blood vessels, which never advances to suppuration; but in parts more vascular, active inflammation takes place, which will, if proper means be not speedily adopted, advance to suppuration; and in the case related by Mr. Smerdon, this would probably have happened, had he not adopted a bold and decisive practice to prevent it.

THE VITAL FUNCTIONS.—In an early Number we have noticed some galvanic experiments, made by Dr. Philip, of Worcester, with the view to ascertain the office of some particular nerves, or rather their influence on the functions of different organs. The philosophical part of the Royal Institution, supposing that the results of Dr. Philip's experiments threw much additional light on the vital functions, requested Mr. Brodie and two other members to repeat the experiments, and report the results to the Society. Mr. Brodie, and his appointed coadjutors, accordingly undertook the task, and the results of *their* experiments differing in the most essential points to those published by Dr. Philip, they communicated them to the public *anonymously*, through the medium of the Quarterly Journal, without any previous correspondence with Dr. Philip on the subject. Such conduct could not fail to excite the indignation of a man of science. Dr. Philip having been credibly informed that the article in the Journal was written by Mr. Brodie, addressed the following letter to him.

"SIR,—A gentleman from London informed me, that he heard it publicly mentioned that you are one of the gentlemen who gave the statement in the Quarterly Journal of April last, in answer to some observations in the appendix to the second edition of my Inquiry into the Laws of the Vital Functions. This report appears to be confirmed by what is said in the 129th and following pages of Dr. Cooke's late Treatise on Nervous Diseases. It is with considerable surprise that I have there seen the experiment, which was detailed

in the above-mentioned statement in the Quarterly Journal, again brought forward as affording a *refutation* of the results of some of my experiments, after I have *repeatedly* pointed out, that the circumstances of that experiment are *in no essential respect similar* to those of the experiments in question; and it is universally admitted, that in such experiments even *the slightest deviation* may influence the result.

"I ask you, Sir, as a *gentleman*, to say, whether the above-mentioned experiment can be regarded as a fair repetition of my galvanic experiments?

"In the first of these experiments, the nerves sent by the eighth pair to the cardiac portion of the stomach, were divided, and at the end of a week and three days, digestion was found to be going on as usual. This experiment was related to me by Sir Everard Home in a letter, which I still have by me, as performed by Magendie, more than a year before the publication of the first edition of my Inquiry, in the 168th page of which it is mentioned; and I cannot perceive any reason why a different result should have been expected from it. It is shown, in my Inquiry, that if any considerable part of the influence of the brain or spinal marrow be withdrawn from the stomach and lungs, the secretions of these organs are deranged. The par vagum evidently conveys to the great chain of ganglions the influence of the brain. When it is divided at a short distance from its origin, the influence it conveys is cast off; but I cannot perceive how this can at all be done by dividing the particular branch of this nerve which goes to the cardiac portion of the stomach. Before it arrives at this place it has formed innumerable connexions with the great sympathetic and ganglions. They have received from it the influence of the brain; and if nerves going to any particular organ be divided, there are every where, (such are the precautions of nature,) numerous anastomosing branches still capable of conveying the necessary influence as long as it is duly supplied from its sources.

"Had you *been more conversant* with the *effects* of *dividing the par vagum*, you would not, I think, have made the observations, quoted in Dr. Cooke's work, relating to the influence of the state of the lungs on the stomach, after the division of these nerves in the neck. The difficulty of breathing is at first so slight, as often to be hardly perceptible; sometimes, indeed, it is not at all so. It only becomes considerable as phlegm accumulates in the lungs; yet, if the animal be allowed to eat as soon as the nerves are divided, efforts to vomit immediately ensue. In one case, in which Dr. Hastings had divided them, and the animal was immediately allowed to eat, the food it had taken, in consequence of the efforts to vomit, accidentally got into the wind-pipe in such quantity as to occasion suffocation, and the animal died within five minutes after the division of the nerves, and without any symptoms of indigestion, previous to the act of suffocation, having been observed. If you will take the *trouble* to reperuse the account of my galvanic experiments, you will find that the digestion sometimes was most impaired when the breathing was least affected, and *vice versâ*.

"The observations just made, respecting the division of the car-

diac nerves, apply, if possible, with greater force to the experiments in which the great nerves of the leg were divided. Dr. Monro, I believe, relates similar experiments in his lectures, but without drawing your inferences from them, it is well known that nerves accompany the vessels thoughout every part of the body in such number, that could we destroy all other parts of a limb, leaving the nerves alone, the subject would still have the feeling of the limb being entire. Now it is shown, by experiments related in the above Inquiry, that the nerves which supply the vessels belong to the ganglion system; an inference well supported by the observations of the anatomist; and that it is on these nerves, and not on the nerves immediately derived from the brain and spinal marrow, that secretion depends. The use of the nerves you divided is to convey *impressions* to and from the limb, and to excite the muscles of *voluntary* motion. It is true they receive twigs from the ganglion nerves, as all parts do; but the division of these can be of little consequence, as the number of ganglion nerves and their anastomoses may be said to be almost without end. 'It is the character of the ganglion nerves, that they every where anastomose, and that each may convey the influence of many; while the nerves, arising directly from the brain and spinal marrow, convey the influence only of that part of those organs from which they take their rise. These facts are illustrated by many experiments related in my Inquiry. It might as well be said, that the blood supplied by any of the great arteries of a limb is not essential to the health of the limb, because, when the artery is secured by ligature, the anastomosing branches can perform its functions; as that the division of any ganglion nerve, not impairing the function of secretion, proves that the influence it conveyed is not necessary to the due performance of that function. While the source of nervous influence is entire, nature has provided many channels for that part of it on which life depends.

"The next experiment related in Dr. Cooke's work, is one in which the source of nervous influence was lessened, and there were evident marks of deranged secretion in the wound. It is true that you observe 'the circumstance of the union being incomplete may be reasonably attributed to the animal being in a torpid state, and remaining apparently without nourishment for many months.' But all who have been much in the practice of experimenting on frogs, know that their health is not readily influenced by causes which greatly impair that of *warm-blooded* animals. Granting, however, that the causes you state did, to a certain degree, operate, will it be admitted, that in estimating those which prevented the proper healing of the wound, nothing is to be ascribed to such a privation as that of the lower part of the spinal marrow? The effect was such as corresponds with the results of my experiments. Even in those in which the greatest part of the spinal marrow was destroyed, which could be done without immediately destroying life, the stomach was not more affected than by dividing one of the eighth pair of nerves; and when the whole of the lumber portion was destroyed, some degree of digestion still went on, even in the warm-blooded animal, which is so much less tenacious of the living powers than that of cold blood. It

appears, from many of the experiments of M. Le Gallois, as well as of my own, that the lower part of the spinal marrow is the least essential of those parts which prepare the nervous influence.

"The inference to which your view of the experiments, which Dr. Cooke quotes from you, have led you, that only some of the secretions are under the influence of the nervous power, (Dr. Cooke's work, page 134,) seems unphilosophical, and would, therefore, on this account alone, have appeared highly improbable.

"When I consider the nature of this letter, Sir, I need not, I trust, beg of you to favour me with as early a reply to it as your engagements will admit of.

(Signed) "A. P. W. PHILIP."

"*Worcester, January* 25, 1820."

To this letter Mr. Brodie returned the following answer:—

"SIR,—You were correctly informed, that I was one of the three Fellows of the Royal Society who were formerly requested to undertake the repetition of your experiment on the application of the galvanic influence to the stomach, after the division of the nerves of the eighth pair. After reading your observations on our experiment, I can discover only one point of difference between it and the original experiment made by yourself, namely, that in ours the *galvanic influence was applied by a* SUCCESSION *of contacts instead of a* CONTINUED *stream.* How far this may have affected the results I will not pretend to determine; but as you suppose that it might have done so, I have (since I had the honour of receiving your letter of the 25th ult.) made the experiment again, taking care that it should very accurately resemble yours in *this* and in all other respects (!!) The rabbit was fed with parsley; and immediately after the nerves of the eighth pair were divided, he was subjected to the influence of the galvanic battery, and this was continued for upwards of seven hours; at the end of which time the contents of the stomach were examined, and found to have precisely the same characters, the same odour, appearance, and consistence, as in another rabbit, which had been fed in the same manner, and in which the nerves had been divided at the same time, but on which the galvanic battery had not been employed.

"You may be assured that neither *my* friends nor myself have the smallest desire to depreciate the value of your labours; and I hope that I have *sufficient* zeal in the cause of science, to have experienced a real pleasure, if I could have met with results similar to those obtained by yourself. That I have not done so, is not to be considered as *my fault*, and ought not to be regarded by you as a matter of offence. If the subject be worthy of further investigation, I doubt not that some competent experimenter will, sooner or later, undertake to prosecute it; for myself, I take the liberty of declining to enter into any *controversial* discussion. for which I have neither leisure nor inclination.

"I beg to offer to you my apologies for not having acknowledged your letter sooner: the delay has arisen from my desire to make a second repetition of your experiment previous to my writing to you.

"16, *Saville Row, February 4th*, 1820. (Signed) B. C. BRODIE."

In a subsequent letter, Mr. Brodie acknowledges that his experiments differed from Dr. Philip's, in the most essential particulars. The galvanic operation was not continued half the time, and the metal, instead of being applied to the lower part of the stomach, was applied to the bottom of the breast-bone; so that scarcely any part of the stomach was within the galvanic circle!! Dr. Philip, prior to his addressing a letter to Mr. Brodie, requested two eminent practitioners of Worcester, Dr. Hastings and surgeon Sheppard, to repeat his experiments exactly as he had described them in his Treatise on the Vital Functions; the results of which were found to correspond with those Dr. Philip had published. Mr. Sheppard having made choice of a different animal, (the dog) for his experiments, we shall give his own account of them.

"Having, at the request of Dr. W. Philip, divided the eighth pair of nerves in the neck of two small dogs, which were allowed to eat as much lean raw mutton, cut into small pieces, as they chose, immediately before the experiment, after having fasted for many hours, I subjected one of them to the galvanic influence, by coating the lower parts of the divided nerves with tin-foil, and connecting it with one end of the galvanic trough; while the other end of the trough was connected with the region of the stomach, which, before the experiment, had been shaved, and a three-shilling piece bound upon it. The power of the galvanism was such as to occasion a twitching of the fore-limbs during the whole experiment. The dog which was not galvanized was immediately seized with dyspnœa, and efforts to vomit. In the other, neither was observed in the slightest degree, at any period of the experiment, except when for a few seconds the galvanic influence was intentionally discontinued, during which the breathing became very laborious, again becoming free as soon as the galvanism was restored. This dog lived above two hours. The other dog was still alive, though extremely weak, at the end of four hours, at which time it was killed by a blow on the head.

"On examining the stomach of the galvanized dog, the mutton was found in a soft, half-dissolved state, all character of muscular fibre having disappeared. The lungs, on examination, were found perfectly healthy, but rather of a florid colour. In the stomach of the other dog the bits of mutton still retained their firmness, and on being cut into, displayed both the red colour and fibrous appearance of the muscle, which did not seem to be at all diminished. The lungs were found greatly congested, and collapsed very imperfectly, the surface being covered with patches of a dark red colour.

"The above experiment was made in presence of the house-surgeon and pupils of the infirmary, who all examined the state of the stomach and lungs, and expressed themselves satisfied with the result. The accuracy of the above statement I am ready to attest in any way in which I may be required to do it.

(Signed) "JAMES P. SHEPPARD."

"*Worcester, February 7th*, 1820.

The object of the experiments being to ascertain if digestion depended on the stomach being supplied with a subtle fluid by

ramifications of the 8th pair of nerves; one would have supposed that a person in conducting such an experiment, would have studiously imitated nature in conveying the galvanic fluid; but instead of supplying it in a continual stream, it was applied by a succession of contacts, so that on each contact an agitation was produced, which was certainly more likely to interrupt the process of digestion than to promote it. By the confession Mr. Brodie has been compelled to make by the manly conduct of Dr. Philip, it then appears, that the experiments made by him and his coadjutors, materially differ, and of course, that the results do not afford the refutation as had been asserted, with an air of triumph, of the opinions of Dr. Philip. The experiments of Dr. Philip are highly interesting, inasmuch as they satisfactorily prove that a subtle fluid is conveyed from the brain by certain nerves, and that the organs of the animal machine are enabled by it to perform their respective functions.

HYDROPHOBIA.—Mr. Smerdon's discoveries in medicine so crowd upon him, that to prevent his organ of memory being overloaded, he is under the necessity of making a communication monthly. He now fancies that in hydrophobia he has discovered a symptom which clearly enables a practitioner to distinguish the disease from difficulty of swallowing attendant on inflammation of the throat!! "It is *well* worthy of remark," says he, "that it is either the *sight* of the *fluid* or the *mere desire* for drink, *not the act of drinking*, which occasions the spasmodic rigor: hence then it is clear, that the impression is first made on the mind, and *from thence* through the medium of the nerves, to the *supposed* seat of the disease. This *incontrovertible fact*," he adds, "is important, because it points out a clear distinction between hydrophobia and inflammatory disease affecting the same parts." This industrious collector of facts, from the benefit which was produced by "sending a stream of galvanic *gas* through the lungs," as stated by Dr. Philip, thinks, that the same remedy merits a trial in hydrophobia. The remedy, says he, "may be as *futile* as every other, which has hitherto been tried for hydrophobia." Notwithstanding it is *well* worthy a fair trial; first, because it is *novel*; secondly, because its use does not exclude the administration of other means. And lastly, besides being a remedy for asthma, it has lately been found of singular efficacy in some of the most unpromising cases of epilepsy.

In adopting a *novel* remedy, a practitioner should proceed on something like a rational principle, or on fair analogy. The effect of the galvanic fluid on the brain and nervous system, is increased excitement; and as the brain and nervous system are excessively excited in hydrophobia, such a remedy appears to be contraindicated, and, in our humble opinion, would aggravate the disease. It has been beneficial only in sub-irritative asthma, *i. e.* where the sensibility of the nerves is diminished. In epilepsy and other spasmodic diseases, it has probably proved beneficial by improving the conducting powers of the nerves, and by relieving the brain of superabundant nervous fluid; but in hydrophobia the whole nervous system is in a high degree of excitement. Such is the violence of this disease, that the only remedy that is likely to allay the morbid excitement of the

brain and nervous system, is the prussic acid. We suppose by galvanic *gas*, Mr. Smerdon means the galvanic *fluid*, as we never before heard of such a gas. We would advise Mr. Smerdon, instead of communicating his discoveries and *original* observations monthly, to digest them a few months, and to read what eminent writers have said on the subjects, before he allows them to appear in print. We beg to assure him, that we should not presume to give him such advice if we had entertained the most distant idea that the public or the profession were likely to suffer by the delay. If he should do us the honour to attend to this hint, we have no doubt his next communication will be creditable to him.

NERVOUS HEAD-ACHE.—The celebrated Dr. Orfila, of Paris, has published a case of intense nervous head-ache, which was cured by the extract of stramonium. The subject was a lady of thirty years of age. The pain in the head was so severe as to prevent sleep, and to render her incapable of attending to her affairs. It generally continued for three or four hours, with an intermission only of about thirty minutes. The digestion was bad, but the other functions of the body were not disordered: local and general blood-letting had been tried in vain. One grain of extract stramonium was given every morning for four successive days: no relief following, the dose was doubled on the fifth; and, in four hours after, all the symptoms of poisoning by stramonium were developed. The face was of a purple red colour, and swollen; the eyes projected; the pupil dilated; eye-lids half closed, and vision nearly lost; hearing impaired; muscles of the lower jaw, lips, right arm, and leg, convulsed; left side completely paralyzed, and intellect singularly disturbed; continual incoherent stammering, weeping, and other expressions of dreadful suffering; deglutition light and hurried; temperature natural; cold sweats only in the paralyzed foot. Ten leeches were applied behind the ears, sinapsms to the feet, injection of common salt and vinegar administered, and vinegar and water given internally. An emetic was not prescribed; the symptoms, indicative of absorption, proving that the poison was no longer in the intestinal canal. The phenomena now gradually subsided, and the paralyzed limb began to execute slight movements. About midnight another, but less violent attack, relieved by antispasmodics: weakness and indistinct articulation only remained, and the head-ache never recurred: in nine days the patient was perfectly restored. The violent operation of the stramonium is, in this instance, referred by Orfila to some peculiarity of constitution in the patient; since it may commonly be administered, without inconvenience, in a dose double that which produced such violent effects in this instance. The case occurred in Minorca; and most of the poisonous plants possess greater energy in this and similar climates than in more northern latitudes. And again, the inhabitants of the south are endued with a peculiar susceptibility, which renders them more sensible to the action of powerful medicines. However it be, the fact of a very intense head-ache having been speedily removed by the stramonium, is worthy of record.

INDIGESTION.—Dr. Yeates has communicated an account of

the beneficial effects of the white oxyde of bismuth, in a severe affection of the stomach of a gentleman far advanced in years. We shall give the case, and the Doctor's introductory remarks, as nearly in his own words as possible to be understood by our non-medical readers.

"Many years have now elapsed since Dr. Marcet pulished a very clear and explicit account of the good effects of the white oxyde of bismuth, in certain painful conditions of the stomach. Relying upon the recommendation of this medicine, as coming from so respectable an authority, other practitioners very soon made trial of it, and were much gratified in finding that it answered the expectations of the curative powers which had been attributed to it. Among those who have since more particularly called the attention of physicians to this subject, is Dr. Bardsley, of Manchester, who, in 1807, published some interesting and instructive cases in his Medical Reports. Some insulated cases have also been published in the medical journals, confirming the high character given the medical virtues of the oxyde of this metal. In reviewing the cases which have been presented to the public, I do not find the age of any patient to exceed fifty-five years; and as the patient, whose case I am about to relate, had for a long period of years been afflicted with distressing pains of the stomach, was past seventy when the treatment was first commenced, and when the symptoms were so violent as justly to excite a suspicion of much organic mischief about the stomach, I am induced to believe that a detail of it will add considerably to the good opinion entertained of the bismuth, and will contribute to diffuse still wider the benefits to be derived from an exhibition of this valuable medicine. I am aware, that the result of an operation of a medicine in an individual case can prove nothing decisively of its good effects; but, when such individual statement comes in confirmation of many other cases, it must have its weight in the recommendation of the adoption of a medicine not previously very generally resorted to. In this point of view, therefore, I trust the perusal of the following case will not be without its utility.

"January 21, 1816. P—— C——, Esq. aged 71, complained, at the beginning of winter, of pain about the pit of the stomach, attended with much eructation of wind and costiveness. The appetite is rather deficient, but it varies; it is not accompanied by any morbid thirst; the tongue is foul; pulse full, slow, and soft; a wasting of the flesh has taken place; the urine is of the natural colour and quantity; there is nothing remarkable in the colour of the fæces. No uneasiness is complained of by pressure on the epigastric region. The pain troublesome at various times during the day, but is most distressing between ten and eleven at night, when it comes on with intolerable violence, and to such an extent, as to cause vomiting, when the matters thrown up are very liquid, great in quantity, and extremely acid; some relief from pain is then obtained. Sometimes the pain returns in the night so as to destroy rest. It occasionally shoots to the back, and produces a slight dyspnœa for a short time. The pain is not brought on immediately upon taking food, but he describes it as occurring about three hours after meals, by a kind of

fermentation, and a sensation of weight, as if the food had never passed from the stomach. In the winter of 1814, these distressing symptoms continued so long, and with such violence, as greatly to injure his general health, and to produce a considerable degree of emaciation, with a dry, brown tongue, and a slow, weak, intermitting pulse. At that time he was restored, after some mercurial medicines, by the compound mixture of iron; but he was never long free from pain, although it was much mitigated. At the beginning of the ensuing winter, it returned with considerable violence, when the mixture of iron was again resorted to with some temporary relief. Bark and various other remedies have been given without benefit; the most immediate relief has always been obtained by large doses of magnesia and chalk in cinnamon water. The dose of these absorbents was taken in such quantities, as to produce an uniform white appearance in the feculent discharge. Reflecting on the cases which had been published, and in which the white oxyde of bismuth is so strongly recommended, I determined to have recourse to it. Accordingly, about six weeks ago, he began with five grains three times a day, mixed with some tragacanth powder. Relief being obtained, the dose was increased to eight, then ten, and lastly to twelve grains, thrice a day, with such decidedly good effects, that P. C—— called upon me yesterday, and said he had been free from pain and uneasiness for some time, although he had occasionally, by way of experiment, indulged with impunity in such articles of food as had formerly very much disagreed; and that he had omitted taking the powders for four days, and no pain had returned. The bowels had been generally regular, but it was sometimes necessary to take a few grains of the compound extract of colocynth. Thus this venerable gentleman has for the last three years, enjoyed considerable comfort from the use of this medicine; and this relief from pain he would, most probably, not have experienced, but for the bismuth; for, during the three years which have elapsed since he first took it, the pain has at times returned, but has been uniformly removed, by having recourse to this mineral. Having experienced its good effects in this way, he has always had a packet of the white oxyde by him; and, when necessary, has taken a small quantity in a tea-spoon, without weighing it, every evening for several nights. Age, and its attendant infirmities, are now, I regret to state, pressing upon him, and society will soon be deprived of one of its most useful and valuable members. His old grievance is occasionally troublesome, with the other symptoms of declining years; and the probability is, that some organic disease exists about the stomach, most likely towards its pyloric orifice, the progress of which has been materially impeded, with always a great diminution, and occasionally a total loss of pain for a considerable space of time. His comforts have, therefore, been greatly increased, and the approach of the infirmities of age procrastinated by the use of the bismuth. It is here worthy of remark, that the long continued use of this medicine is productive of no bad consequences, as is the case with some remedies which produce temporary and beneficial effect, but whose continued exhibition becomes injurious to health. Care should be taken

to have the white oxyde of bismuth quite pure, as it is apt to be mixed with noxious ingredients in its native state before it is reduced to an oxyde."

The oxyde of bismuth, being generally used as a cosmetic, is often mixed with white lead; we, therefore, advise those who are disposed to give the remedy a trial, to procure it at the Medical Hall, 171, Piccadilly.

MEDICAL EXCURSION—*(continued from page 457.)*—The following day I visited Great Malvern, where I met with a diabetic patient, who was taking powerful diuretic medicines, under the care of a physician at Worcester. To stimulate the kidneys when the secretion of urine exceeded six quarts daily, was indeed a new practice. The malady had increased since he had followed his advice. The surgeon of this place, Mr. Beale, I found a man of great observation and practical information. Had my patient consulted no other practitioner, it would have been fortunate for him; but in the country, physicians are supposed to possess a very superior knowledge of diseases, and those who are best acquainted with small conversation, and possess a good share of impudence, generally take the lead.

Soon after my arrival in Worcester, I visited the infirmary. This institution is well supported by the noblemen and clergy of the county. Its income is equal to the expenditure, which is the case with very few similar establishments in this kingdom. The wards were very clean and sweet, and the patients appeared to be satisfied. About twenty-five years ago, when the hospital was attended by Dr. Cameron, and Surgeons Russell and Cole, it was an excellent school for medicine, particularly the important branch of surgery. "Ah, what a falling off is here," said I to myself. Among the medical officers, there is a kind of ferment or waspishness which does not operate either to the advantage of the funds or of the patients. The apothecary and matron seemed to be well contented. To a question respecting the practice of the physicians, my medical attendant observed, with a shrug, on that subject, the less that is said the better. In the surgical department, I was glad to discover something like a spirit of enterprise. There were many preparations that were creditable to the surgeon, Mr. Shepperd; and the mind of his pupil, who was engaged in the surgery, seemed to be fired with a laudable degree of ardour. Being informed that a surgeon had lately been elected in the room of a Mr. Carden, I enquired after an old friend, Mr. Dangerfield, whom I knew when he was pupil to Mr. Abernethy. My companion replied, in a low tone of voice, he paid his debt to nature a few years since. After pausing a few minutes, he emphatically observed, "Ah, Sir, with all our skill we have as little chance in a set-to with Death as any other person." Dangerfield was a surgeon of superior abilities, and by his death the county and the medical world sustained a serious loss. Being thirsty, I called at the shop of a chemist for a bottle of soda water. During the time the porter was gone for it, I amused myself by reading the prescriptions that were lying on the counter. One, by a Dr. Woodenhead, was for a mixture of

infusion of senna and peppermint water, a dose of which was ordered to be taken three times a day. What a judicious composition! To what case could such a medicine be applicable that any other old woman could not manage as well? Another was for pills, of the extract of poppies; a sufficient quantity of conserve of hips was ordered to render the extract of a proper consistence for rolling into pills. The learned physician was not aware that the extract is generally too soft to roll into pills without any addition, and never too hard. On my making this observation to the assistant, he observed, with the peculiar medical sneer, we are obliged to exercise our own judgment in compounding many of the prescriptions that are written in this city. "G—d help the poor patients," I exclaimed, without being aware what I was saying. "Ah, that is their look out," said he, "we must not lose our character as compounders through the *ignorance* of prescribers." On looking behind me, I saw the porter with a bottle of soda water, in an attitude to inform me that he was ready to draw the cork. I presented a glass, and the man speedily conveyed into it the contents of the bottle. I swallowed it as speedily for the sake of the fixed air. It left on my palate a strong flavour of rotten eggs, and on smelling the glass, I discovered that the water was in a putrid state. Supposing that it would excite vomiting, I hastened to the house of a friend, where I took a glass of brandy, to counteract its nauseating effects. It however continued to annoy me till the following morning.

In this city, a medical society has been some time established for the promotion of medical science, of which the first professional characters in the city and the county are members. A Dr. Dixon, who devotes his leisure hours to visiting the habitations of his fellow-creatures, who are labouring under the complicated misfortunes of poverty and disease, to diminish the pressure of the former, and mitigate the pungency of the latter, had given offence to this society, because he had presumed to encroach on the province of the surgeon, so far as to bleed a patient attacked by apoplexy, a case in which the speedy abstraction of blood was necessary to save the life of the patient. The doctor, in his defence, contended, that every physician should be able to bleed, and that, in cases of such emergency, it was his duty to perform the operation as soon as possible. I have heard the late Dr. Campbell, of Hereford, make a similar observation, and to declare, that many cases of inflammation of the lungs and apoplexy to which he had been called would have terminated fatally, had bleeding been deferred till the attendance of a surgeon could be obtained, in consequence of no surgeon being within fifteen miles of their places of residence. Dr. Dixon's arguments did not prevail, and he was accordingly expelled the society, or politely allowed to resign.

If my information be correct, the principal object of this Society is evidently to benefit themselves as well as the public. The discussions that took place on physiology, powers of fancy, dreams, vagaries of the imagination, &c. at the meeting of the Society, being in general highly entertaining, I am sorry that the philanthropic Doctor Dixon has lost such a source of amusement.

From Worcester I proceeded to Hereford. The infirmary of this county is kept remarkably clean, and for medical and surgical attendance it has a decided advantage over every similar establishment in this kingdom. From its commencement the name of Cam has been the most prominent among the medical officers. The late Dr. Cam and his brother Thomas Cam, Esq. were great promoters of the charity. The former was the leading physician, and the latter (whom I was glad to find living) the leading surgeon for many years. The high character of the surgeon, and I may with truth say, of the physician, is ably supported by the son of the surgeon, Mr. Samuel Cam. The senior physician, Dr. Blount, a gentleman of extensive reading and great practical information, had recently signified his intention to leave the county, in consequence of which he had entered into a negociation with a physican to dispose of his practice. The idea of transferring patients to another physician for a pecuniary consideration, I confess, first excited a kind of indignant astonishment in my mind. I could not help considering it a sale more disgraceful than that of slaves, inasmuch as towards patients a physician cannot but feel some sense of gratitude; and indeed, this sense may induce a physician to look out for a successor in whose judgment his connexion or friends may place the most implicit confidence; and that Dr. Blount was actuated by such a motive, I am well satisfied. Still however there is a something in the *sale of the practice of a physician*, which throws a degree of odium on the transaction.—*(To be continued.)*

NEW THEORIES.—"Sirs, nothing has contributed more to diminish the confidence of the public, in the healing art, or rather in that department of medicine which is claimed by physicians, than the promulgation of new doctrines or theories which, on being put to the test of experience, turn out to be erroneous. When I attended the lectures of Dr. Pearson, on the theory and practice of physic, he broached a doctrine, which was certainly at that time generally believed, that two contagious diseases, affecting the constitution, would not come into action at the same time.

"Soon after I commenced my medical career, (in Chepstow) I was encouraged by this doctrine to inoculate a child with small pox, at the time it was afflicted with hooping cough, in consequence of the disease being in the village. I assured the parents, in the most positive terms, that as soon as the small pox matter operated on the system, the hooping cough would cease; or that, in case the hooping cough did not give way, the small pox matter would not take effect. The hooping cough, to my surprise and great mortification, increased as the small pox advanced. The pustules appeared even within the mouth, and from the peculiar sound of the cough, I have no doubt also within the wind-pipe. The child died on the 6th day of the eruption, in a most exhausted state. This most disastrous result, on my commencement of practice, gave me the most pungent uneasiness. The following year I met with a letter from a Mr. Okes, in the 45th No. of the Medical and Physical Journal, in which he notices "a *most shocking and violent* case of hooping cough, *which ceased as soon as the eruptive fever of small pox shewed*

itself, and never more returned." On inquiring into the particulars of Mr. Okes's case, I was informed, it was of many weeks standing, that the disease had in fact long ago run its course. The convulsive cough, therefore, continued from habit; and the system being in a very debilitated state, a constitutional disease, which roused the energy of the body, was very likely to terminate an affection dependent on debility and habit: but on the commencement of hooping cough, when the system is in a feverish state, I see no reason why we should expect an inflammatory disease to suspend or cure it. Within the last month, I have also met with a patient (aged 7 years) who, during the first stage of hooping cough, caught the measles. The cough was most distressingly aggravated by the new disease, and continued very violent after the measles had run its course. Another young lady, who was two years older, residing in the same house, was afterward affected with both diseases at the same time, but in her the hooping cough ceased with the measles. These cases point out the impropriety of teachers giving sanction to the theories of men, who publish their flights of fancy, or pretended discoveries, merely to bring their names before the public. To such theories, many more lives have fallen victims than have been cured or even prolonged, under the care of the most cautious and experienced practitioners. "I am, Sirs,

"Your very obedient Servant,

"*Brompton, March* 12, 1820. JAMES R. THOMPSON."

INDIGESTION, &c.—"Sirs, I was much delighted with the sound practical letter, which appeared in the last Number of your inestimable Journal, on indigestion and apoplexy. The reasoning on the causes and treatment of apoplexy cannot fail to carry conviction of its truth to the mind of every practitioner of experience and observation. The remarks on indigestion, I have long thought were entertained by no other professional man than myself. I have many years acted on the same opinion, and the success of my practice leaves no doubt of its correctness. There is a piece of information your intelligent correspondent has neglected to give: viz. the means by which indigestion from increased or inflammatory excitement of the stomach, may be distinguished from that which is the consequence of diminished excitement or debility. As this information is important, I have taken the liberty to supply it. When either heart-burn, vomiting of an acid, or cramp in the stomach, is attendant on indigestion, the stomach is evidently in a state of increased excitement. If brandy, or any stimulus, on being swallowed, produce a sense of heat in the stomach, and a feverish state of the system, or confusion of head follows a full meal, they afford corroborating proofs of increased or inflammatory excitement: but when the patient is free from heart-burn, when full meals produce a sense of oppression, when the stomach becomes distended with air three or four hours after a meal, and when brandy or other stimulants, instead of producing pain, are grateful to the stomach; and when the whole system appears to be invigorated by a meal, or by wine, then the stomach is evidently in a state of debility or diminished excitement, in which case, aromatic bitter medicines, and the gal-

vanic fluid conducted through the region of the stomach, will be proper. I am, Sirs, your constant Reader,

JAMES ROBSON, M. D. late of New York."

"*Liverpool, March* 20, 1820."

MEADOW SAFFRON. (Colchicum autumnale.)—This plant grows in meadows of a moist and rich soil. The root, which is the only part used in medicine, is bulbous. It has scarcely any odour, but its taste is bitter and acrid. It has been ascertained that its properties vary, according to the soil in which it grows, and the season of the year in which it is collected. Its medicinal virtuesare only in perfection at the time the leaves begin to appear in spring; for as the flowers advance, the root decays. It is also necessary to extract the virtues of the root as soon as it is gathered, for although removed from the earth, the developing process of vegetation will continue, and the substance will undergo a series of chemical changes. It is generally supposed in this country, that the Eau Medicinale is a vinous infusion of this root; but in France, this is denied by many chemists, because the Eau Medicinale contains a peculiar colouring matter, which is afforded only by leaves. That an advertiser of the Eau Medicinale, in London, at the time Dr. Jones's Treatise on its efficacy in Gout was published, made it from the root of the meadow saffron, satisfactory evidence has been given. A medical man obtained from the servant of the advertiser, at the time he was in attendance on her, a bulb of the root, from which the article her master sold, under the name of Eau Medicinale, was prepared.

On exhibiting it to a botanist, he was told it was the meadow saffron. The information thus meanly obtained was soon published in the medical journals, and other periodical works, as a discovery made by himself!! Because the article advertised in England was made from the meadow saffron, are we to conclude that it was so made in France?

The meadow saffron is a powerful poison, and the preparations of it taken during a paroxysm of gout in a weakly subject, have terminated life in a few minutes; many melancholy instances of which have been published. Such effects from the Eau Medicinale, prepared by Dr. Husson, have not occurred in France. Dr. Paris asserts, that Dr. Williams, of Ipswich, has satisfactorily proved that Dr. Wilson's tincture for gout is a preparation of the meadow saffron. Dr. Wilsons's tincture is not a preparation of the meadow saffron, for it differs in many chemical particulars, and in its medicinal effects. We are surprised that Dr. Paris should make such a bold assertion, without having either examined the article chemically, or given it a trial. The meadow saffron has succeeded in allaying gouty inflammation and pain only in those subjects whose stamina have not been materially injured, and whose nervous system is in a state of inflammatory excitement, In leucophlegmatic habits it uniformly proves very injurious. The best preparation is the tincture which is made by macerating two ounces of the recent root (sliced) in four ounces of proof spirit for a week. The tincture should then be filtered.—The dose is from thirty to sixty drops. The dried root is nearly inert.

IVORY.—The raspings of ivory impart to boiling water a very pleasant jelly, which has been found more easy of digestion and more nutritious than that of the hartshorn shavings or isinglass. Mixed with the jelly of the arrow root, in the proportion of one part to seven, it is much recommended for weakly and rickety children, and consumptive or emaciated invalids.

HERALD'S POWDER.—This composition is recommended by Mr. Mosely, the proprietor, as "an infallible cure for gout and rheumatism, piles, chronic eruptions of the skin, palsy, &c." He represents it to be "so perfectly innocent, that the tenderest constitution will experience considerable benefit from it, and that it may with safety be taken during any period or season."

On examining this powder, we find it to be very similar to the composition we have noticed under the name of the "Chelsea Pensioner's Remedy for Gout, Rheumatism, &c.," the basis of which is sulphur. It is rendered more pleasant to the palate, and probably much improved as a remedy for gout and chronic rheumatism, by the addition of powdered nutmegs and other stomachic aromatics, and by the omission of honey, which, by disordering the stomach in consequence of becoming acid, counteracts the salutary effects of sluphur in cases of gout and rheumatism.

RYMER'S TINCTURE.—Dr. Paris, a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, who pretends to give the composition of the leading nostrums of the day, asserts, that this medicine is a tincture of Jamaica pepper!! As this statement is more likely to prejudice the public against the tincture and the proprietor, than the analysis we have given of it, we suspect the learned Fellow of the College will, like ourselves, be honoured with a prosecution for a libel. We hope Mr. Rymer will not disappoint us in the pleasing expectation of reporting the particulars of the trial in an early number.

ADVERTISERS OF SUPERIOR ADVICE.—The account which appeared in our last Number, of the trade, &c. of certain advertisers of advice, has induced Mr. Pechey to send us the following letter:—

"Sirs,—Conceiving myself the person alluded to under the name of Doctor Slop, alias J—n P—h—y, in the letter, signed "a Friend to Science," and inserted in the fifty-first number of the Gazette of Health, I consider it proper to address you upon the subject. Most assuredly *Mistress* Courtenay employed me to conduct for her the concern, carried on in Hatton Garden, under the names of Currie and Co.; it is however equally true, I have been regularly brought up to the profession of physic, and that the business above-mentioned was conducted by me upon the usual *principles* of medicine. The assertion that I laid my experience in *certain* diseases entirely among the potteries is absolutely false, as during a life of forty-five years, I only passed eight months in 1815 in that part of England, and that for the purpose of entirely conducting Mr. Duffort's business, during his absence, as surgeon, apothecary, and midwife. My situation in Hatton Garden I relinquished on the 31st of last January; the malicious attack of a Friend to Science therefore inflicts no injury upon

"No. 4, *Carburton Street, Fitzroy Square,* Sirs, Your's, &c.

"*March 8th,* 1820. JOHN PECHEY."

We cannot take upon ourselves to say, that Mr. Pechey is the person our respectable correspondent has designated, by the title and name of *Doctor Slop*. If his supposition be correct, it is

evident that the said advertising concern is under the superintendance of a *female*, and therefore the inference is a *fair* one; viz. that the promise of "*superior advice*" is held out as a bait to entrap unwary invalids. Mr. Pechey, we are credibly informed, has practised surgery, pharmacy, and midwifery, many years, with great credit to himself; and that he does not pretend to give *superior* advice, is evident by his letter; and we are happy to understand, that he is not the author of any of the puffing advertisements which have appeared in the public papers.

We have also received the following letter on this subject:—

"Sir,—In number fifty-one of your Gazette, page 459, I am *told* you have *grossly* and *wickedly* libelled the character of Mr. Charles Courtnay, surgeon, of Hatton Street, in a manner not to be justified; and as you state your letter to be received from a source highly respectable, I am desired to call upon you for the name of the author and writer of such letter, that he may be legally called on to deny his scandalous composition. If you will therefore appoint a time for my perusing the letter and receiving his name, I will attend you, and in case of your refusal, my instructions are to treat you as the author, by commencing legal proceedings against you for the gross aspersions contained in the statement published. Your early answer will oblige,

"*Woodbridge House, Clerkenwell,* "Your's obediently,

"*March 7th*, 1820. WM. COOK."

In our reply to this letter, we observed, that we regarded his allegation in so serious a light, that we expected he would immediately proceed to establish the truth of it, or to make an apology for having so hastily laid it to our charge. If Mr. Charles Courtenay's supposition be correct, that our correspondent alludes to him, we beg to ask his solicitor, Mr. Cook, why he, or his wife, or his female, should advertise under the name of Currie and Co.? They state that they are Members of the Royal College of Surgeons; now on the list of that Society, we cannot discover either the name of Currie or Courtenay.

Mrs. Courtenay, or Mrs. C., or Mr. Cook, must therefore have some reason for supposing that the remarks of our correspondent apply to them, more than appears in his letter. Certain it is, good Mr. Cook, that the most cruel impositions have been practised on ignorant hypochondriacs, by some advertisers of superior advice. A few weeks ago we met with a young man (servant to a nobleman) who was induced to apply to an advertiser, in consequence of his false promises of *superior* advice. The unprincipled advertiser assured him, that his symptoms indicated his constitution to be in a most alarming state of weakness. That he was, in fact, nearly "sapless," and bordering on a fatal atrophy. By thus alarming his mind, he obtained from him, under the promise of a *radical* cure, thirty guineas. To raise the money, the poor youth borrowed a few pounds of his fellow servants, and pawned nearly all his wearing apparel, to make up the sum. On the expiration of three months twenty guineas more were demanded, *to complete the cure.* Having no other means of obtaining such a sum than to rob his master, (which in consequence of the distracted state of his mind, he assured us he really contemplated) he laid his case before us. On examining the medicine he had been taking from the advertiser, we found it to be nothing more than coloured chalk!!!

The young man's maladies existed only in his mind!! By taking at intervals three penny-worth of Epsom salt, which we prescribed to remove the effects of the coloured chalk, and to quiet his mind, he was restored to perfect health. The coloured chalk, by constipating the bowels, had no doubt greatly tended to render the mind susceptible of false impressions. Such was the melancholy state of his mind, that we firmly believe, had he continued under the care of the advertiser one month longer, he would have been a very proper subject for a lunatic asylum. Now, good Mr. Cook, we do not say that the impostor, in this case, is the person for whose reputation you (professionally perhaps) feel.—He can best inform you whether he be or not the person to whom we allude. Such is the respectability of Mr. Cook, that we are satisfied that no consideration of lucre could prevail on him to come forward in the defence of such infamous conduct.

Many advertisers of advice (we must not say *all*) are supported by hypochondriacs, whose imaginary complaints are magnified by the unprincipled pretenders, for the purpose of extorting money from them. Many a young man has been driven to insanity by their false assurances, and false representations of the tendency of their imaginary complaints; whilst others have been driven to dishonest acts, to procure the means of satisfying their extravagant demands, which have ultimately brought them to the gallows. If the College of Surgeons considered the good of the public as much as they do their own aggrandisement, would such impositions be thus openly practised with impunity?

A porter, who was some time ago discharged from the service of a wholesale druggist for dishonest practice, has lately taken up the trade of advertising his name in letters of chalk. The mischief, that man has already done, is incalculable; mercury being the basis of all his medicines. Now, good Mr. Cook, were you to prosecute this man for practising imposture, would you not render your country an essential service? and would not the approbation of your own conscience be far more gratifying, than the successful issue of a prosecution of a man for speaking the truth?—Give this suggestion due consideration, good Mr. Cook.

Since the preceding observations were written, we have received another letter from Mr. Cook with a kind of set off, or a neutralising reply to the one which has given so much offence to his client, Mr. Courtney, under the supposition that the initials apply to him. Now, as he finds the cap to fit him with such nicety, we certainly would have inserted the statement sent by Mr. Cook, had he or any of his friends signed it; but to give it as coming from ourselves, and that too from our own knowledge of the party, (of whose professional and private characters we are totally ignorant) is a request with which no threat of prosecution shall induce us to comply. We have volunteered our assistance to cleanse the most offensive stalls in the Augean stable, and if the stench should occasionally annoy us, we will persevere even though it be at the hazard of our lives. In a better cause we cannot sink. Pray what think you, good Mr. Cook?

GAZETTE OF HEALTH.

No. 53. To MAY 1, 1820. Vol. V.

Of Dr. STANGER,

Gresham Professor of Physic, Physician to the Foundling Hospital, &c. &c.

The family from which this eminent physician is descended, has resided many centuries in the romantic Vale of Keswick, in Cumberland; and from the circumstance of a village, and a mineral water in the neighbourhood, bearing the name of Stanger, his ancestors have, at some period, possessed considerable influence in that part of the country. Dr. Stanger received the rudiments of his education at Whitehaven, where his father was a very respectable merchant. He afterwards completed his classical education under the Rev. Mr. Fisher, of Kirkoswald, a gentleman highly esteemed for literary acquirements. Dr. S. having given a preference to the study of medicine, was at an early period of his life placed with Mr. Abbs, an eminent surgeon of Newcastle-on-Tyne, who held the important office of surgeon to the Infirmary, the advantages of which his pupil availed himself. From Newcastle he proceeded to Edinburgh; and after a diligent attendance on all the medical classes, and the meetings of the Royal Medical Society (of which he was a member) for the period of three years, the degree of doctor in physic was conferred upon him. For the thesis he wrote on this occasion, (on the Preservation of Health) he was highly complimented by the leading professors. Being well acquainted with the theories and practice of medicine at the first school in his Majesty's dominions, the Doctor visited Paris, where he devoted six months to dissection, to the lectures on the different branches of medicine, and the practice of the hospitals. He then proceeded to Geneva, where he resided some months, on terms of great intimacy with the leading physicians of that enlightened town. He afterwards visited the different Universities on the continent. Soon after his return to England, he commenced the practice of physic in the metropolis, and became a Licentiate of the College of Physicians, without having previously examined the right, which he afterwards contended every well-educated physician of respectable character had, to be admitted into the Fellowship of the College.

During the first year of his residence in London, he had the good fortune to be elected Gresham Professor in Physic; and in 1792, Physician to the Foundling Hospital, and a Governor of that Charity. Presuming that men of equal pretensions had equal claims, he was led to investigate the history, charters, bye-laws, and proceedings of the College, and the disgraceful contests which had taken place between the Fellows and Licentiates. He discovered that the Charter was obtained by Physicians who had not graduated in the *English* Universities. The three petitioners first-named in the Charter, and

Confirmatory Statutes, were all *foreign* graduates. The superiority of medical schools in Italy and France, at that period, is proved by the testimony of all cotemporary and subsequent writers on the subject; and it is highly probable, that all who could afford the expense of a foreign education, availed themselves of it; and that besides the king's physicians, a majority of those, first constituted members of the College, and, for a long period afterwards, admitted, were also *foreign* graduates.

In 1585, sixty-two years after the Charter was granted, a licence was a *preliminary* step to the Fellowship. It was not till 1674, from Charles the Second's mandatory letter, in order to keep out Papists, that incorporation at the English Universities was required and acquiesced in, because it could *then* be obtained for a trifling sum of money.

The facility of obtaining incorporation, in Oxford or Cambridge, led the faculty to acquiesce in it, though an illegal restraint. The most distinguished members of the College, during the continuance of the usage, were foreign graduates, who submitted to be incorporated by the English Universities. This illegal encroachment, on the rights of the faculty, was soon followed by an illiberal and unjust abuse of the power established under it; and the college has been embroiled almost ever since in contention and litigation.

Mead, Akenside, and Sloane, were foreign graduates incorporated at the English Universities. It was not, however, till 1765, that the most disgraceful spirit of *monopoly* and *oppression*, encouraged by success, emboldened the college to publish a bye-law, enacting, that no one should be admitted into the order of candidates, who had not been created doctor of physic in the University of Oxford or Cambridge, after having accomplished all things prescribed by their statutes, without dispensation. The licentiates were after this under the necessity of either submitting to be entirely deprived of the right of incorporation, and to the oppressive and contumelious conduct of the college, or to endeavour to redress their grievances by an appeal to the courts of law.

On this appeal, in the case of Dr. Letch, the following opinion was delivered by the late Lord Mansfield:—"This court (the King's Bench, says his Lordship) has jurisdiction over corporate bodies."

"Where a party who has a *right*, has *no other* specific legal remedy, the court will assist him, by issuing a writ of mandamus."

"There can be as little doubt that the college are *obliged*, in conformity to the trust and confidence placed in them, to *admit all* that are *fit*, and to reject all that are *unfit*. Their conduct in the exercise of the trust (of examining) ought to be *fair, candid*, and *unprejudiced;* not *arbitrary, capricious*, or *biassed;* much less warped by *resentment* or *personal dislike*."

"I think that every person of *proper* education, *requisite* learning and skill, and possessed of all other due qualifications, is *entitled* to have a *licence;* and I think that he ought, if he desires it, to be *admitted into the college*."

It is obvious, then, that although *general exclusion* be a grievance,

partial admission, through favour, is an insulting aggravation, infinitely more pernicious and disgraceful; and that both honour and interest powerfully engage the licentiates to submit no longer to enter the college on such humiliating terms.

It has been shewn, that the college possesses within itself, and confers, immediately, on its members, important advantages; that the exclusive possession of its privileges, by a party, enables them to obtain and monopolize an undue proportion of the honours and emoluments attached to the profession; that the great body of physicians in the metropolis are, in fact, and must inevitably be, depreciated and oppressed by a College of Physicians invested with considerable powers, if partially constituted.

In the year 1797, Dr. Stanger claimed his supposed right, as a properly-educated physician, of being admitted into the Fellowship. The counsel for the college contended, that the Doctor having accepted a licence under the bye-law, it was most unreasonable, if not a fraud, afterwards to treat the bye-law as null and void; and after taking an oath to support the bye-law, and not to interfere with the constitution of the college, to set up a licence so obtained, as a foundation of a right to be admitted a member of the college, under the *charter*. The learned judge, accordingly, after observing, although the bye-law was decidedly bad, yet as the doctor was admitted a licentiate under it, he was bound by it. His acceptance of the licence under the bye-law, contradicted his claim under the charter. "It would, therefore," observed the learned judge, "be a fraud upon the college to make this use of a licence, directly contrary to the manifest and acknowledged intention of it." If, therefore, a graduate of a Scotch University should be disposed to compel the college, by law, to admit him into their Fellowship, he must not previously *condescend* to accept a licence from them.

In 1798, Dr. Stanger published his work on the Rights of the Licentiates. In 1802, he published Remarks on the Means of suppressing contagious Fever;—a work which, though of no great length, contains references to nearly all the preceding works on that subject. The diminution of contagious fever in the metropolis, since that and other works were written on the subject, and since the Fever-house was established, is very considerable.

Dr. Stanger was one of the early promoters of the Medical and Chirurgical Society, and one of the Vice-presidents. He published a paper in the first volume, on the Efficacy of Chalybeate Medicines in some pulmonic complaints; and also a paper to prove, that seven years after vaccination, persons who had been properly vaccinated were incapable of being infected with small-pox.

In his conduct through life, Dr. Stanger has justly considered independence as one of the first of virtues, and one without which neither the honour nor dignity of the professional character can be preserved. Less actuated by views for himself, than for the interest of his brethren, he has spurned to solicit what his merit deserved, and what by concession he might have at any time readily obtained.

The Author of "Authentic Memoirs of eminent Practitioners," speaking of Dr. Stanger, observes, "It is in the revolutionary

struggles of public bodies, as well as of states, that talents are called forth. On these occasions are unfolded, and put to the test, judgment, resolution, and the great qualities of the mind. The present respectable individual stood forward as the champion of his brethren, in a contest which did him high credit; for his perseverance and pen were equally displayed in a cause which will ever endear him to professional gratitude, and record his name as the liberal advocate of science, and of that dignity which ought to appertain to it. Whatever restrictions the contracted views of prerogative may impose, he sought only that laudable reformation which is devoutly to be wished, and which every Fellow must approve, if self-interest be set aside; but man, frail man, dressed in a little brief authority, can seldom reason here on *just* or *liberal* principles. Power presents a jaundiced eye to all infringements."

TUBERCLES.—Dr. Baron, of Gloucester, has written a book to "illustrate the nature of tuberculated accretions of serous membranes, and the origin of tubercles and tumours, in different textures of the body." On opening the abdomen of patients who died of the mesenteric atrophy, or emaciation from disease of the mesenteric glands (a disease very prevalent in Gloucestershire and Herefordshire) the doctor "found the whole of the contents adhering to each other and to the cavity, in such a manner as to form, apparently, one solid mass; the mesentery and its glands were in a *very diseased state.*" The doctor, on inspecting this agglutinated mass, was convinced that it exhibited a tuberculous character; and as his friend, Dr. Jenner, had many years ago published an opinion, that tubercles are hydatids, such agglutination he was also satisfied is hydatidal. Adhesion of the peritoneal covering of the contents of the abdomen is a very common consequence of disease of the mesentery and its glands. This adhesive inflammation, which is of a chronic or scrofulous nature, gradually extends over the peritoneum, and terminates in adhesions. The inflammation of the mesenteric glands advances to suppuration, and in consequence of the adhesive, or, as Dr. Baron terms it, the agglutinating process, the matter is often emptied into the intestinal canal. Very small suppurations take place beneath the peritoneum, which have the appearance of the tubercles of the lungs and liver; and in other places, from the interruption to the free transmission of blood through the *agglutinated* mass, serum is effused in parts where the adhesion is not complete, producing an hydatidal appearance. In no internal disease are the different stages better exhibited than in tubercles of the lungs. In scrofulous consumption, in which the lungs are studded with tubercles, the disease always commences in one lung; so that on the dissection of a person who has fallen a sacrifice to this species of consumption, the other lung exhibits tubercles in different stages; viz. the first formation, their inflammatory stage, their suppurated stage, and their broken stage. In the first stage, we find their coats to be of a condensed cellular substance, or what is termed parenchymatous substance, and the contents to be thin lymph: during inflammation, the coats become thicker from adhesion, and the contents more solid: in a suppurated state, the

contents have a curded appearance, like the matter of a suppurated scrofulous gland. We agree, therefore, with Dr. Baron, that the suppurations which take place in the agglutination of the bowels, noticed by him, are similar to those which lay the foundation of pulmonary consumption, i. e. that they are both scrofulous; but that tubercles, in any stage, are hydatids, is, in our humble opinion, an unfortunate idea. For the nature of the tumour termed hydatid, we should examine it in the animal which is most subject to it, and in which it is most perfect—that animal is the sheep. So subject is the sheep to this tumour in the lungs and liver, that out of forty, of different ages, which were opened in our presence, not one was free from this disease; and the slaughterer assured us, that he did not recollect having ever opened one in which it did not appear, either in the liver or lungs. In the lamb, the coat of an hydatid is very thin, and in proportion to the age of the sheep, the coat is thick, but the *contents* of all do not differ in the smallest degree, being thin pellucid serum. In some old sheep we have met with hydatids as large as a hen's egg. The coat, both of the young and old hydatid, differ in texture and colour to that of the tubercle, and is evidently not like the latter, condense cellular substance. We never discovered in the true hydatid any appearance of suppuration; and from the contraction of the coat on being touched with the knife, (the sheep being opened immediately after death) we are inclined to coincide with those physiologists who pronounce it to be a parasytical animal. This opinion is, in no small degree, confirmed by their production in the human uterus, where the cysts or coats cannot be formed by condensed cellular substance. A few years ago we attended a female who parted with a cluster of hydatids from the uterus, which would have filled a gallon measure.

Dr. Baron seems so pleased with his theory, that in all organic diseases, or cases of morbid structure, he can see nothing but hydatidal formation. Even diseases of the skin, attended with a serous or watery discharge, he pronounces hydatidal. Thus the itch, erysipelas, &c. are either hydatids, or a disposition to their formation. With him, all the encysted tumours are in their commencement hydatids. He has also seen "a section of a *transformed hydatid*, (so termed by himself) which exhibited a series of concentric laminæ, resembling the appearance of an urinary calculus."—Thus

> "All seems hydatids that the doctor spies,
> As all seems yellow to the jaundic'd eyes."

The next discovery the doctor is likely to make, and in which his friend, Dr. Yeates, if not Dr. Jenner, will coincide, will be, that the brain is only a transformed hydatid, and afterward, that man, in all his glory, is but a worm. The hydatidal theory of Dr. Baron, like all such fine flights of fancy, throw no light on the cure of diseases, either in their hydatidal or their transformed stages.

TIC DOULOUREUX.—Mr. Benjamin Hutchinson, a scientific surgeon of Southwell, in Nottinghamshire, has lately published six well-marked cases of this distressing malady, in which the carbonate of iron, in large doses, has been successfully administered by him-

self. In the treatment of those cases, he did not neglect the general means, which circumstances indicated, but he attributes his success entirely to the bold and active manner in which he employed a remedy. The carbonate of iron, he thinks, has hitherto been exhibited in doses much too small to produce a sufficient effect on the constitution in many diseases, and particularly the formidable one, the *tic douloureux*. He also forcibly points out the necessity of ascertaining any cause that may exist in some distant part, of which the painful disease may be symptomatic, and of adopting every feasible method for its removal; but when he has effected this desirable object, he has found complete success not uniformly to follow; for he observes, "The primary cause of the original evil may be removed, and still, from new circumstances, habit, &c., the effects remain to keep up extensive pain and mischief." The failure of arsenic, hemlock, the deadly night-shade, and other remedies, which have been lately most extravagantly extolled as specifics for tic douloureux, induced Mr. Hutchinson to enquire into the effects of the different preparations of iron. This investigation appears to have been attended with happy results. Of all the metals, iron is the least injurious to the animal system, and cannot, in any respect, be ranked as a poison. It was a favourite remedy with many of the most celebrated ancient physicians. The effects of iron, as an internal remedy, were, however, very little known till more modern times. In the leucophlegmatic, or languid habit, it improves the general health, probably by increasing the red particles of blood, the consequences of which are, an increased temperature of the body, and, of course, augmentation of the strength of the nervous system, &c.; when administered with judgment it is therefore a remedy capable of producing very important effects on animal life.

The preparation of iron which Mr. Hutchinson prefers, after a fair trial of all the others employed in medicine, is the carbonate of the London Pharmacopœia. This remedy, he is convinced, by experience, has hitherto been given in doses too minute to produce any good effect in other diseases besides the tic douloureux. We select the following case as most decisive of the beneficial effects of the carbonate of iron in subduing the distressing affection. The disease was seated in the nerves over the cheek bone just below the orbit, the gums, the teeth, upper lip, and end of the nostrils. It was therefore an affection of the second branch of the fifth pair of nerves, viz. the superior maxillary nerve. The usual remedies had been judiciously administered without any sensible benefit. So far back as nearly six years, the patient addressed the following letter to Mr. Hutchinson, in reply to one she had received from him:

"SIR,—Permit me to offer you my acknowledgments for your kind enquiries after my health: in reply to which I have the satisfaction to acquaint you, that I am almost entirely free from the dreadful disorder in my face, which for many years embittered my life. I was when first attacked by it in my twenty-seventh year, and for the next twenty years and upwards, had very little respite from its tortures. Moved by what you heard and witnessed of my

sufferings, you had the goodness to prescribe for me (a drachm of carbonate of iron mixed with honey, twice a day). I followed exactly your advice, and from that time my pains disappeared, and I have of late years only the most trifling remains of them, and these are so instantaneous, that they raise in me no alarm. I continue to take a course of the powder you recommended every month, and intend to persevere in this practice. I am Sir, &c. &c.

"*Aldercar Park, July* 20, 1814. JANE SMITH."

After an elapse of upwards of five years, Mr. Hutchinson received the following:—

"SIR,—I think it a duty, which I perform with unfeigned satisfaction, to acquaint you, that since my last communication on the subject of tic douloureux, I have been entirely exempt from that excruciating complaint. I however persisted in the use of your prescription, at the intervals I then mentioned, till the beginning of last year; when experiencing no recurrence of pain, I ventured to leave it off totally, and remain perfectly free from any symptom of the disorder. I am, Sir, &c. &c.

"*Aldercar Park, November* 8, 1819. JANE SMITH."

"DEAR SIR,—If the foregoing statements can contribute to your purpose, I shall be sincerely happy. When I began to be afflicted with the tic douloureux, I have mentioned; as to the progress of the disease, I know not how to speak of it, for it was from the first to the last, an extreme of pain that mocks description; in short, it was the complete tic douloureux, from the beginning. It was the right side of my head and face only that was affected; the other side had neither pain nor soreness. When the spasms came on, which they did a hundred times a day, they were like lightening for suddenness; and when they individually ceased, it was as suddenly and as completely as if they had never been. My health was in every respect good, excepting those consequences of the horrid disorder that arose from its preventing me eating due sustenance, (and even speaking,) and taking rest. I suppose every person who is so wretched as to be visited with this scourge, has had similar feelings to mine, but I am quite incapable of giving that history of my sufferings, which, I am persuaded, the importance of the subject requires. This and my former letters will, however, at least point out from what means much benefit, most probably a cure, might be obtained by those labouring under the dire disease in question.

"I am, Dear Sir, &c. &c.

"*Aldercar Park, December* 8, 1819. JANE SMITH."

The other five cases as decidedly confirm the specific powers of this remedy in tic douloureux, as the foregoing and many other similar examples, Mr. Hutchinson states, he might select from his case-book. The state of the constitution of the patients Mr. Hutchinson has neglected to notice, which we regret exceedingly, because we are inclined to believe that it has succeeded only in languid or leucophlegmatic constitutions. In the fifth case, which occurred in a plethoric habit, the remedy, although the patient persevered in its use three weeks, produced so little relief, that, according to his own statement, the patient was "weary of taking it." He then had

recourse to calomel, with a large proportion of extract of hemlock. In this composition he persevered for a fortnight, without producing any impression on the disease. Recourse was then had to a solution of arsenic, in pretty large doses, without any apparent benefit. The sulphate of zinc, the lunar caustic, the extract of henbane, in large doses, were followed by the same unfortunate result. In the state of despondency which these various experiments left the patient, he agreed to give the carbonate of iron another trial. Mr. Hutchinson accordingly commenced its exhibition in the dose of four scruples twice a day. On the fifth day a very perceptible change in the disease was evident. The paroxysms were less frequent, and somewhat less severe. A regular perseverance in similar doses during the ensuing month rewarded the patient with a gradual extinction of the malady.

In this case, the powerful remedies which were employed after the failure of the carbonate of iron, had so completely reduced the powers of the system, that instead of being of "a plethoric habit, and of tense muscular fibre," he was in that state of languor in which the internal use of the carbonate of iron is uniformly beneficial. His system had, in fact, undergone a complete change, and a state produced which favoured the operation of iron.

We have lately met with a case of tic douloureux, of long standing, in which the exhibition of the carbonate of iron has completely succeeded in subduing the pain, and in improving the general health. His digestion being bad, he took it, combined with the conserve of orange peel, and a few grains of columbo root, in powder. He commenced with thirty grains, twice a day, which in a few days he increased to sixty grains. This patient, aged about 55, was of a leucophlegmatic habit; his pulse was languid, and his legs towards night were generally edematous. We have also heard of a case of tic douloureux, in a young woman of a plethoric habit, in which the carbonate of iron evidently rendered the paroxysms more violent and frequent. Mr. Hutchinson prefers the name given to this affection by Dr. Samuel Fothergill, viz. *Tormenting Pain of the Face*, to that of tic douloureux, which was first adopted by a French physician, signifying *The* painful paroxysm, being more acutely painful than any other affliction. As the disease occurs in other parts of the body, besides the face, the French name is, in our humble opinion, the most proper. We some months ago met with the disease in the third finger of a female, in which the division of the nerve and the accompanying artery succeeded in affording relief for two months. The nerve then probably united, and the pain in consequence returned. Mr. Abernethy has published a similar case. We have also met with a most distressing case, seated in the groin of a female that had been under the care of several eminent practitioners in London, which we cured effectually by an injection of a strong solution of opium. Ten years have since elapsed, and the patient has not experienced the slightest return of the malady.

We should not do Mr. Hutchinson justice if we were to conclude this article without recommending his pamphlet to the attention of those readers, who may feel interested in the subject. The history

he has given of the disease, although concise, is very interesting; and the manner in which he has related the cases, clearly evince that his only object is to communicate information that is likely to lessen the sum of human misery. The title of the work is "Cases of Tic Douloureux successfully treated."

BUFFY BLOOD.—From the circumstance of several cases having occurred in the practice of Mr. Heineken, a surgeon, of Bow, with strong symptoms of existing inflammation, the blood drawn, (although it flowed freely from a large orifice,) on becoming cool, not exhibiting the buffy appearance, he has published a few instances to prove, that a practitioner is not to judge of the *nature* of a disease, or of the *propriety* of a repetition of bleeding from the *appearance* of the blood, but to rely solely on its effects. If symptoms strongly indicating inflammatory action remain, especially in parts of vital importance, the practitioner "must regard the *appearance* of the blood of no moment whatever;" means must still be persisted in to subdue the disease, for which, says Mr. Heineken, I know of none so safe and efficacious, as bleeding. It is true, continues Mr. H., that like all other good things, it has been frequently abused; but I believe its principal abuse to arise from *timidity* and *indecision*. If an object is to be attained, the means must be persevered in until its attainment, and it is not "the *quantity* of blood drawn, or the *apparent strength* of the patient, which should govern us, but the *effect* produced on the disease." Mr. Heineken notices the case of a bricklayer, aged twenty-seven, who had been bled in the course of four days to the extent of 100 ounces, in consequence of an injury he received on the head from a fall. The blood after each evacuation, except the last, had not a buffy appearance, but the last exhibited a strongly marked inflammatory indication. On examining the head, after death, a large coagulation was found between the skull bone and dura mater, but not the slightest evidence of inflammation in any part of the brain or its membranes. Thus, says Mr. H., did the blood exhibit the buffy appearance, which is considered by the profession to indicate the presence of inflammation, when no inflammation existed. Mr. Heineken should have noticed the time that had elapsed before he made the examination, and also the situation of the injury. A few hours after death, the blood will gravitate to the most depending part of the body, so that after copious bleeding, the vessels of the upper part will be nearly emptied. Surely Mr. H. could not suppose that so much injury could be produced within the skull without exciting inflammation. We beg leave to ask Mr. Heineken why, in this case, he did not adopt the practice recommended by Mr. Abernethy, viz. of examining the bone where the injury was received in order to ascertain if the dura mater was detached? If this had been done, he might have ascertained by the appearance of the bone, (after removing the periosteum) and particularly by the escape of blood from its surface, that the dura mater was detached; and in that case by removing a portion of the bone by the trephine, the coagulum might have been removed, and the result would have been highly creditable to him. We will not attribute the unfortunate termination of this case to "timidity,

indecision, or ignorance," because we hope he has some cogent reason for not having had recourse to such a measure. As to the other cases which Mr. Heineken notices, we cannot discover one, in which we should have expected the blood to exhibit a buffy appearance. In local inflammation, attended with considerable fever, the blood, we believe, is never buffy, except it be seated in the chest, where the temperature of the blood is greatly increased, as in the inflammation of the lungs in elderly people; (the peripneumonia notha) when the blood is always buffy, although the general heat of the system is not increased. That the blood is rendered buffy by excess of caloric, is evident, by its becoming so, if received in a vessel heated to 140 degrees Farenh. The blood abstracted in cases of extensive inflammation of a mucous membrane, is generally buffy.

DISEASES OF INFANCY.—Sir Arthur Clarke, M. D. of Dublin, author of an Essay on Bathing, &c. &c., has lately published a popular treatise on the prevention and treatment of the diseases of infants and children, under the title of "the Mother's Medical Assistant." The work is divided into ten chapters. The *first* embraces the treatment of new-born infants, advantages of suckling, &c. The *second*, the properties and component parts of the human milk; the proper food for infants, diet for nurses, the effects of heat, &c. The *third*, the vital organs of infants. The *fourth*, diseases of the skin, viz. the red and white gum, the tooth rash, St. Anthony's fire, nettle rash, itch, scaly eruptions, scald head, chicken pox, small pox, &c. The *fifth*, diseases of the head, as water on the brain, convulsions, and epilepsy. The *sixth*, diseases of the throat and chest, as thrush, croup, hooping cough, catarrh, &c. The *seventh*, diseases of the stomach and bowels, as worms, looseness, dysentery, cholera morbus, jaundice. The *eighth*, diseases of the glands, as the mumps, king's evil. The *ninth*, diseases of the bones, as white swelling, rickets, cloven spine, &c. And the *tenth*, the diseases of the nervous system, as St. Vitus's dance, &c.

Many of the disorders of infants and children unquestionably arise from mismanagement; and even when a disease communicated by contagion, terminates fatally, it may be always traced to an unhealthy constitution, from the same cause. From the analysis of milk, Sir Arthur concludes, that it was never intended by our Creator, that we should live entirely on *simple* substances; certain however it is, the more *simple* the food, the more free the body will continue from disease. Sir Arthur supposes the sugary part of milk is the most nutritious. That sugar yields nourishment, says he, is evident from the well-known fact, that men often live exclusively on figs and raisins, which contain scarcely any other ingredient. Again, negroes on our sugar islands in the West Indies, become extremely lusty in the sugar-cane season, when they live scarcely on any thing else than sugar. Horses and cattle which are allowed to feed upon the canes, also become fat.

Both figs and raisins, and indeed all ripe fruit, contain a much greater proportion of mucilage than sugar, and to this article alone we are disposed to attribute their nutritious property. With respect to negroes becoming fat during the sugar season, it is well known

that at the commencement of the season, the sugar acts on the bowels as a gentle aperient, and the improved state of their health has been very justly attributed to the aperient effects of the sugar, in removing slime from the intestines, and obstruction of the liver and mesenteric glands. Until the stomach and bowels become accustomed to the use of sugar, the general health declines, the body becoming emaciated and feeble; and, during this seasoning, as it is termed, many die of diseased bowels. So far from agreeing with Sir Arthur, that sugar is a salubrious article of diet during infancy and childhood, we are disposed to attribute most of their diseases to its use. When a child is over-fed, and this is the case with all, sugar unquestionably favours the process of fermentation, and in the space of a few minutes will become acid, which, if the infant should not relieve the stomach by vomiting, must disturb the whole intestinal canal, and consequently the general health, producing fever, tumefaction of the mesenteric glands, distension of the stomach and intestines by fixed air, from whence arise, if the patient should not die of inflammation of the bowels or brain, a variety of diseases of the head, skin, and bones. We also find children that are indulged with sweet-meats are never healthy, being subject to indigestion, glandular obstruction, irregular bowels, carious teeth, &c. When the milk of a nurse disagrees with an infant, it is in consequence of an excess of sugar; and the milk of nurses whose digestion is bad, is always in this state. We should, however, make a distinction between *animal* and *vegetable* sugar, the former of which is less liable to become acid in the stomach. The milk of a woman will vary much according to her diet. If she lives upon a proper combination of animal and vegetable food, her milk will not turn sour, or curdle spontaneously on exposure to the atmosphere, for a considerable time. If her food be entirely vegetable, it soon becomes sour. The milk is also deteriorated by affections of the mind, as anger, fear, grief, or anxiety. Sir Arthur states that he met with an instance of an infant, while sucking milk from an enraged nurse, being suddenly seized with a bleeding, that speedily destroyed life. When an infant is deprived of its natural food, in supplying a substitute, we should as closely as possible imitate nature. For this purpose Sir Arthur recommends a suckling bottle, the mouth of which should be as wide as that of a half pint vial, which should be stopped with clean sponge, covered with soft gauze, and made in shape and size to resemble a nipple. The food which approaches nearest to mothers' milk is a combination of animal and vegetable jellies, noticed in our last number, under the head of Ivory Raspings.

In order to strengthen the muscular system, promote circulation in the extremities, and the growth of the body, Nature employs a variety of means, which a considerate nurse will be careful not to counteract. On the important subjects of exercise, air, &c., Sir Arthur makes the following very judicious remarks:—

"Exercise, that great source of bodily health, is more requisite in childhood than at a more advanced period. The perpetual motion

in children, which carries the appearance even of restlessness, is but the natural effects of the activity of their constitution.

"The moderate exertion of the powers of the body, in proportion to the child's strength, tends to strengthen the constitution, as the exertion of the mental powers will strengthen its intellectual faculties.

"It is of the utmost importance, therefore, that whatever is destined to increase and acquire strength, should receive a corresponding portion of exercise. If the bodily functions require this invigorating influence, so will those of the mind; and let not parents imagine that repose will aid either the one or the other. Action is the very essence of life and health, it is equally essential to the mental as to the corporeal powers.

"Exertion of any one part of the body, gives strength to that particular part; for instance, the arms of a blacksmith are stronger than his legs; while the legs of a dancing master are stronger than his arms. This is more observable in the human species, than in any other class of animals, and arises from the circumstance of there being a more immediate influence and reciprocity between the mental and bodily functions in the former, than in the latter.

"In childhood, a greater proportion of sleep is requisite than at any other period of life: as the daily accession of strength both to mind and body are greater, so is their daily exhaustion. Children, therefore, at the close of the day, suddenly sink into langour, inactivity, and rest. Sleep restores both mind and body to their wonted powers of action.

"Pure air is essential to the health and existence of every living creature; in childhood it is peculiarly requisite; it braces and invigorates the tender frame of children, while bad air produces relaxation, sickness and debility. It is of the utmost importance, then, that this stream of life should not only be pure, but supplied in that unrestrained abundance which nature every where contemplated. There is nothing so injurious to children, as crowded or ill-ventilated apartments. Inhaling the noxious and mephitic air of such, is more fatal to children than to adults, inasmuch as the lungs are of a more delicate texture, the inspirations more frequent, and the animal economy more liable to derangement. The want of purity in the air, is, according to Doctor Hales, but the want of elasticity; thus the lungs being deprived of their wonted exercise, inconvenience in breathing is the consequence. Ventilation, therefore, is a primary object in preserving the health of children; without it, the animal economy is deranged, and the whole system, mental and bodily, labours under an evident depression. Breathing the air already saturated with the noxious matter emitted from the lungs of others, is often the cause of convulsions, and lays the foundation for many serious complaints.

"Immersing infants and children daily in *warm* water is conducive in the highest degree to their growth and bodily strength; whereas, the unnatural practice of plunging them into *cold* water, under the erroneous idea of strengthening the constitution, occasions more diseases and greater mortality, than all the epidemic or contagious

distempers to which they are subject; and is often the remote cause of most of the diseases with which they are in more advanced life afflicted. Galen, who flourished in the second century, describes immersion in cold water, as a practice fit only for the young of lions and bears.

"It is a common observation that children who are brought up *hardily*, (that is, thinly clad, and exposed to all the vicissitudes of the weather,) have generally the best constitutions, and finally become the strongest men. Doubtless, many children who are so exposed, or who are daily bathed in cold water, are often among the strongest; and if from constitutional strength, they are enabled to bear up against this unnatural and uncertain experiment, they are likely to be less susceptible of injuries from any subsequent neglect; this much however is asserted with confidence, that not one in ten of such children are free from diseases of some kind or other; while those who are kept warm, guarded against the sudden impressions of cold, and receive those attentions which nature so unequivocably demands, are generally healthy. Under the mistaken idea then of endeavouring to make children what is called hardy, many of them are sacrificed or subjected to disorders, with which probably they might never have been affected; such as glandular swellings, commonly called kernels in the neck, and which often terminate in scrofula, colds, and coughs, often ending in affections of the lungs, and frequently terminating in consumption. Thus by an attempt to dictate to nature, in the care of the constitution, rather than leaving her free to urge her own means, and lay the foundation of health and strength in her own way, we lay the ground-work of future evils.

The surface of the body of infants is so very sensible, and its sympathy with the brain and intestines so intimate, that the slightest impressions will often produce very serious mischief in the system. Hence the sudden application of cold to the body is generally followed by some disorder of the bowels or brain; and affections of the skin of infants should therefore never be neglected.

The Red Gum.—This eruption, Sir Arthur thinks, requires no medical treatment. In case it should be suddenly repelled by exposure to cold, it may be recalled by the use of the warm bath, with one or two grains of James's powder, two or three times a day. The same is recommended for the white gum and tooth rash, which he considers mere varieties of the red gum.

St. Anthony's Fire.—For this affection, Sir Arthur very properly condemns the application of a cold lotion, particularly Goulard's saturnine wash, so frequently resorted to by nurses. In many instances he has found it to "transfer the inflammation to the bowels." A purgative powder, composed of rhubarb and calomel, an emollient poultice, and dusting the affected parts with finely-powdered starch, he has found to answer best.

The Purples.—This disease, which is easily recognized by small distinct purple specks and patches of different sizes on the skin, is attended generally with great debility, but seldom with fever; and is not contagious. The spots are diffused over the arms, legs, and sometimes the whole body, and are often attended with hæmorrhage

from the nose, mouth, and other parts. They have not any regular or stated termination.

It is generally the children of the poor who are attacked with this disease. It is for the most part brought on by a poor diet and impure air. Instances, however, though rarely, are found among the children of persons in higher life.

A decoction of bark, with acidulated drinks, pure air, and moderate exercise, with an occasional purgative, are the only remedies necessary in this complaint.

The Itch.—For this disease, Sir Arthur recommends the body to be sponged daily with a warm solution of the liver of sulphur, made by dissolving a drachm of the salt in a quart of water. He also advises a table-spoonful of the following medicine to be taken three times a day.

Dissolve an ounce of Epsom salts in half a pint of peppermint water, to which add a drachm of the dilute sulphuric acid, and two drachms of the compound spirit of lavender.

Scaly Eruptions (red and white).—The following case is sufficiently descriptive of this disease, the numerous remedies generally employed, and of the simple treatment to which it will give way.

Master R. C———, a fine boy, about seven years of age, had small scaly patches on his arms, legs, and the entire of his body, of various dimensions, from the size of a pin's head to that of a sixpence. The first appeared at the elbows and about the knees, and continued increasing, until they came nearly into contact all over the body; several patches appeared on the head, but none on the face. A variety of remedies had been used, such as the tar, sulphur, citron, and other ointments; sweetening decoctions, as bitter sweet, &c. the juices of various plants were used both internally and externally; the medicated bath was also resorted to, but the disease remained stationary for a considerable time; the scabs peeling off, were succeeded by a fresh stock. This succession of scabs continued for several months, attended with but a slight degree of itching. There was no constitutional derangement, but the bowel evacuations appeared of a clay colour. This circumstance, which Sir Arthur understood had not been before observed, guided him in the subsequent treatment. He ordered the following *alterative powders:*—of James's powders, one scruple; calomel, ten grains; rhubarb, two scruples, mixed, and divided into ten equal parts; one to be taken every night; he also recommended the *steam* bath every morning.

This was the entire of the medical treatment resorted to, and which produced the following results:—the incrustations separated from the centre of the patches, and were no longer re-produced; the scabs became diminished in size, and a circle of red shining cuticle, somewhat indented, appeared within the original patch, which retained a scaly ring or border, until the cuticle within assumed its natural colour and texture. The eruption then gradually disappeared, till every vestige of the disease was removed, and which was effected in about two months.

It was evident from the appearances of the child's evacuations, that there was some derangement in the functions of the liver, and

that either a deficiency of bile was secreted by that organ, or that an absorption of it took place. To this latter cause he attributed the disease, and the effects of the remedies employed.

For the Scald Head and Ringworm, Sir Arthur recommends the scalp or part affected to be shaved once a week, to be washed with *warm* water twice a day, and to be anointed after each washing with the figwort ointment. For making this ointment he gives the following recipe:

"Bruise a pound of the fresh leaves of the great figwort in a mortar, then boil them in a pound of lard, until the leaves become crisp, but not burnt; then strain and keep it covered from the air."

He disapproves of irritating applications, and of the old practice of eradicating the hair. When the figwort ointment cannot be obtained, he recommends the tar ointment with sulphur, or ointment of Indian berries (cocculus indicus) as a substitute for it.

The White Blister (eating hive or burnt holes).—For this disease, ablution with warm water twice a day, and the application of the figwort ointment after each washing, has generally succeeded in the author's practice; but if the disease should spread and shew a tendency to mortification, he advises the parts affected to be fomented with the steam of hot water; a carrot poultice to be applied every eight hours, and a table-spoonful of the following *bark mixture* to be taken three or four times a day.

Take of decoction of Bark, four ounces;
Dilute Sulphuric Acid, twenty drops;
Syrup of Orange Peel, half an ounce.—Mix.

From a dessert to a table-spoonful may be given to a child from three to five years old, four or five times a day.

Sir Arthur concludes the chapter on Diseases of the Skin, with the following observation:—"The simple treatment which I have recommended for the diseases of the skin of infants and children, is the result of ample experience, among the patients of an institution, where six thousand infants and children, afflicted with the various diseases peculiar to these periods, are annually brought under my inspection. By such experience I am justified in stating, that almost all the diseases of the skin of infants and children, however different they may be, in symptoms and appearance, at the *commencement*, will yield to a judicious and free use of warm water, and proper attention to personal cleanliness; and that in those tender and critical periods of existence, when so many fatal internal disorders are induced, by an injudicious repelling of any of the foregoing diseases of the skin, we should rather seek to assist the constitution in its efforts at throwing out the incipient disease by the above-mentioned personal observances, than by the direct application of medicine; little or none of which will, in fact, be necessary; in a word, that we should throughout, in the management of infants and children, regard the best efforts of medical skill, but as auxiliary to the operations of Nature—in all cases the safest and the most powerful physician.

Water on the Brain.—In the first stage of this disease, i. e. the inflammatory stage, Sir Arthur advises the temples to be covered

with leeches, daily, as long as any symptom of inflammation remains; the head to be shaved and sponged with cold water, while the body is in a warm or vapour bath; and the bowels to be freely emptied by an active purgative. To a child of four or five years old, may be given the following *purging powders:* Of powdered scammony, powdered jalap, and calomel, take of each, twenty grains, of gamboge, ten grains; mix, and divide into six equal parts, one to be given every second or third hour, until it operates copiously.

In the second stage of this disease, he recommends blisters to be applied to the nape of the neck, and to the insides of the legs, and James's powders, combined with calomel, (from two to four grains of each) given every six or eight hours, until the mouth becomes affected. The body to be kept as much as possible in a perpendicular position; and the bowels open by the following *turpentine injection.* Take of common turpentine, two drachms; beat it up with the yolk of an egg, and add, by degrees, half a pint of decoction of camomile flowers, in which an ounce of Epsom salts has been previously dissolved; strain it, and divide it into two equal parts, one to be administered night and morning.

When the disease succeeds to falls, bruises, or other external injury on the head, the symptoms commence with violence; the child is suddenly seized with great heat, thirst, and frequency of pulse, which generally beats hard, full, and strong; the cheeks are greatly flushed, and the tongue becomes white. If these symptoms are not attended to, they are soon succeeded by the dilated pupil, squinting, and other symptoms of the second stage, which demonstrate that the effusion of water has already taken place.

This disease too often obtains a dangerous ascendancy from its approaches not being recognized, until the watery deposit has already commenced, and the absorbents are unequal to the task of keeping it under. In the commencement, the aid of the physician should therefore be resorted to without delay. In addition to the use of calomel and James's powders, the free use of the warm and vapour baths, by soliciting the blood to the surface of the body, will be found to relieve the internal organs, and prevent congestion.

Three leeches to each temple, if the bleeding be encouraged by the frequent application of warm water, we think sufficient.

Convulsions being always symptomatic, the treatment must depend on the primary affection. If they arise from difficult teething, Sir Arthur advises the gums to be scarified, deep enough to divide the membrane which covers the tooth. The discharge of blood, by allaying inflammation, and lessening the determination to the head, is as beneficial as the division of the membrane. If worms are the cause, an active dose of basilic powder will succeed in dislodging them.

In every case of convulsion, be the cause what it may, there is a greater determination of blood to the head than at any other time. This should always be kept in recollection, and operate as a

necessary guide in the selection of remedies, and the treatment of the patient. The blood should be drawn by every means in our power to the surface and extremities of the body. To effect this, in addition to the most active purgatives, (as the purging powders and turpentine injections) the child should be put into a warm bath, twice a day; the body and extremities being afterwards kept warm, and the head rather cool.

Should the convulsions return after these measures have been adopted, and no appearance of any eruption take place, a congestion or inflammation of the brain may be apprehended, which must be treated accordingly.

Epileptic Fits.—When this disease has not given way to the treatment recommended for worms, Sir Arthur has frequently found the following treatment to succeed:

"The necessary evacuations from the head, stomach, and bowels, being first effected, let one of the following powders be given every night: Of the oxyde of lime and camphor, take of each half a drachm; mix, and divide into twelve equal parts, one to be taken every night. Should vomiting or sickness be occasioned, only half a paper is to be given.

"Turpentine has also been used with success, in the following form:—Take of rectified oil of turpentine, two drachms; honey, one ounce; mix, and add by degrees a quarter of a pint of penny-royal or peppermint water. A table-spoonful may be given once or twice in the twenty-four hours.

"The doses of both these remedies must be regulated, of course, by the age of the child, and by the effects of the first or second dose. They should be perseveringly used, from six weeks to three months, interposing occasionally, if necessary, some opening medicine.

"During the fit nothing should be done, but to keep the hands open, and to use the necessary precautions to prevent the child injuring itself by the violence of the convulsion. The head should be kept cool, and the extremities warm."

What benefit can possibly arise from keeping "the hands open," we are at a loss to conjecture. Experience has satisfied us, that the paroxysm is prolonged by such officiousness.

Croup.—On the first appearance of this disease, Sir Arthur recommends a dose of ipecacuanha and antimonial wine to be immediately given, and repeated every ten minutes, until it excites vomiting. After the operation, the child should be put into a warm bath, from ten to fifteen minutes, and a dose of calomel and jalap given. If relief be not obtained from these measures, the entire throat should be covered with leeches; and the bowels emptied by a turpentine injection, to which should be added a drachm or two of the tincture of assafœtida.

If the alarming symptoms are not checked in twelve hours, the warm bath is to be repeated, and calomel, in doses of from three to five grains, with three grains of James's powders in each, should be given every third hour. These remedies, if exhibited on the attack, will seldom fail of curing the disease. He has found blisters to be of little or no use in this complaint. The propriety of admi-

nistering so stimulating a medicine as the tincture of assafœtida, is much to be questioned. The application of blisters to the back of the neck or to the legs, as recommended by some eminent physicians of Paris, should not be neglected. The most important remedy is the abstraction of blood till the patient faints.

Hooping Cough.—This disease, Sir Arthur states to consist in *inflammation* of the air vessels. Inflammatory excitement unquestionably exists, often bordering on active inflammation during the first stage; the disease we believe to be as much seated in the diaphragm, as in the lungs. In the commencement of this disease, Sir Arthur recommends an emetic of ipecacuan powder, or antimonial wine, to be administered once a week, or oftener. The bowels to be kept open by a composition of jalap, calomel, and James's powder, and occasionally castor oil. In the course of the day or night, he advises a table-spoonful of the following mixture to be repeatedly given to a child of from two to three years old, or when the cough is troublesome. Dissolve two scruples of prepared soda in half a pint of soft water; to which add two drachms of ipecacuan wine, and ten drops of laudanum, and sweeten with barley or lump sugar.

When the fever runs high, the breathing laborious, and the violence of the cough is so great as to cause a blackness in the face and neck, with symptoms of suffocation, or even convulsions, recourse must be had to bleeding, either by the lancet, leeches, or cupping. Should these distressing symptoms be not relieved by the operation, it will be necessary to repeat it in three or four days. After the system is reduced by bleeding, Sir Arthur advises the back and the chest to be rubbed every night with the following liniment, until an eruption of small pimples appear:—

Dissolve a drachm of camphor in an ounce of oil of turpentine, then add two drachms of the spirit of hartshorn, and one drachm of the tincture of cantharides.

In the beginning of the disease, the child should be confined to a light vegetable diet. After the crisis, that is, when the fever and violent symptoms have been subdued, a more nourishing diet may be allowed, with a little animal food. Should the child become hectic, or Phthisical, asses milk should be substituted for animal food.

The author concludes his article on this disease with the following remark:—

The hooping cough will be relieved, if not effectually cured, by the introduction of the small pox, measles, scarlatina, or vaccination; parents, therefore, need be under no apprehension of exposing their children to these infections, during the prevalence of hooping cough.

On the fallacy of this doctrine, a letter appears in our last number. We have at this time patients under our care, who are suffering exceedingly from hooping cough with measles. The former disease was greatly aggravated by the latter.

Worms.—With the intention of dislodging worms, Sir Arthur employs very actice purgatives, as jalap with calomel; and afterwards, for the purpose of killing them, he prescribes cowage,

powdered tin, or the carbonate of iron. He also recommends the use of a bitter, as the compound decoction of aloes of the London Pharmacopœia, which he has found to be noxious to worms, and at the same time to promote digestion. He adds, the male fern root, dried and powdered, has been recommended, and will undoubtedly destroy the tape worm, in adults; but it is difficult, if not impossible, to force a child to swallow a quantity sufficient to have the desired effect.

The Ascarides or Maw-worms, are found in the lower intestines, and produce great itching. They may be dislodged by strong purgatives, and afterwards washed away by the following injection. Boil half a drachm of aloes in half a pint of new milk for five minutes, then strain and divide into two equal parts, one to be administered with a table-spoonful of olive or castor oil, after the operation of a purgative.

Dysentery—For this disease, Sir Arthur recommends the following treatment:—a dose of rhubarb, or castor oil, should be given. This will generally check the complaint; but should it prove of an obstinate nature, and blood appear in the discharge, a drop or two of laudanum may be given once in twelve hours, in a little cinnamon water, or chalk mixture, and the child put into a warm bath. Should the great intestine protrude, which is sometimes the case, if the complaint has been of long standing, previously to its being forced back, it should be bathed every time it appears, with a little warm new milk (about a wine-glassful) in which a tea-spoonful of laudanum has been mixed. This, in most cases, will cure both complaints. Farther than this it will not be possible to give any general instructions, as in confirmed or aggravated cases, the medical practitioner must be the only guide.

The diet should consist of more animal than vegetable food, and rice should be boiled in either milk or broth, for the child's common drink. Sago and arrow-root, with a small quantity of port wine, and sweetened with lump sugar, may occasionally be given. If the infant be on the breast, the nurse should abstain from vegetables and porter; instead of which she may take gruel and wine-whey.

Jaundice.—For this disease, Sir Arthur has found the compound decoction of aloes of the London Pharmacopœia, to succeed in relieving the symptoms and removing the cause. From one to two tea-spoonsful, diluted with the same quantity of water, may be given once or twice a day. The bowels should be previously unloaded by a dose of jalap and calomel.

Scrofula.—This disease, the Author is of opinion, is generally the consequence of indigestion, want of exercise, impure air, and thin clothing in damp and moist situations. He therefore recommends strict attention to be paid to regimen, change of air, warm clothing, and exercise. With due attention to these points, and the use of the following powders, he assures his readers he has found no other internal remedy to be necessary:—Take of prepared chalk, two drachms; of powdered rhubarb, two scruples; of calomel, one scruple; of James's powders, ten grains. Mix, and divide into twenty equal parts;—one to be given every night. For children of

from two to three years old, the dose may be regulated according to their age and strength. To children under that age, half a paper will be sufficient; and for those above it, a paper and a half, or two papers may be given; to be increased or diminished according to the effect they may produce.

On the practice of sea bathing, so much recommended by many respectable authors, to correct the scrofulous constitution, Sir Arthur observes, Sea bathing has also been recommended, and has not unfrequently received the credit of a cure; which was entirely attributable to the change of air and exercise. Its utility in this disease is extremely doubtful. In *many* instances I have known it to be attended with the most dangerous and destructive consequences; and Mr. Carmichael concurs with me in opinion, in his very ingenious Treatise on Scrofula. He observes, and with great truth, "that the indiscriminate use of *cold-bathing in this disease, destroys, in a single year, the lives of many more than it could relieve in a century.*" The same writer states a fact of considerable importance, "that there is no part of the empire in which scrofula is more general than in Dublin; and yet the inhabitants, but particularly the children, even of the lowest class, enjoy the advantages every summer of sea-bathing."

From his own knowledge and experience, of the injurious effects of sea-bathing in infancy and childhood, Sir Arthur discards its use altogether in this disease.

Rickets.—Weakness of the digestive organs always preceding this disease, Sir Arthur confines his treatment to the use of stomachic medicines and a nutritious diet. Of the use of the cold bath, Sir Arthur disapproves; warm bathing he recommends, to promote the healthy operations in the system, particularly the different secretions. With this view he advises the child to be bathed every day in a warm or tepid salt-water bath, and regularly exercised in the open air when the weather permits.

The following powders he has found very beneficial:—

Take of prepared Chalk, one drachm;
powdered Rhubarb, one scruple;
Calomel, six grains.

Mix, and divide into twelve equal parts.

Half a paper may be given every night to an infant of from six to twelve months old, and a whole paper to a child of from two to four years old.

It is scarcely necessary here to observe, that, in most instances, a proper attention to nursing and management is the first of all requisites, and more likely to act as a salutary alterative than the direct aid of medicine. This disease being found principally to occur among the poor, living in unhealthy damp situations and ill-ventilated apartments, and where exercise and habits of cleanliness are unattended to, will sufficiently point out the circumstances which particularly demand attention, and by a due observance of which, much of the mischief of this disease may be removed, if not altogether prevented.

St. Vitus's Dance.—In this disease, says Sir Arthur, the appetite

is in general irregular, the bowels are constipated, and the system relaxed. The process of cure, therefore, must be to strengthen the powers of digestion, and brace the nervous system. The following treatment he has found to produce this effect, in a very short space of time:—To four ounces of the compound decoction of aloes, of the London Pharmacopœia, add four ounces of peppermint water and half an ounce of Epsom salts. Give a table-spoonful of this mixture every night and morning, and put the patient into a warm bath every second day, It will be necessary to give a dose of jalap and calomel, (five grains of the latter to ten of the former) a day or two before the exhibition of this medicine. Calcined zinc has been found in some instances to produce a favourable termination of this complaint.

The diet should be light and nourishing, and the exercise moderate and regular.

White Swelling and Disease of the Hip Joint.—On the commencement of either of these formidable diseases, Sir Arthur recommends the part affected to be well leeched, to be fomented for half an hour, twice a day, with warm salt water, (made by dissolving a quarter of a pound of bay salt in a gallon of water) and after each fomentation, the following liniment to be applied freely, and the part afterwards to be kept covered with flannel:—Take of oil of turpentine, spirit of hartshorn, and olive oil, of each equal parts. This treatment Sir Arthur has found immediately to check the progress of the disease, and ultimately to restore the part to health. To the propriety of fomentating, and the subsequent application of a stimulating liniment and flannel, our experience will not allow us to accede. We have always found fomentation and stimulating liniments to aggravate the malady. Blistering the part after unloading the vessels by leeches, the constant application of a cold lotion, with the use of medicines and diet that are calculated to quiet the system, we have found to succeed better than any other treatment.

The mortality which prevails, to an unaccountable degree, among the young of the human species, induced Sir Arthur to publish the result of his long experience and observations on the origin and cure of their maladies; and this he has done in that familiar manner, and indeed with that ability, which distinguish the man of science from the plodding physician, who, in practice, attends to little else than the means of enriching himself. The work being published as a "*Medical Guide for Mothers*," Sir Arthur has very properly avoided a full detail of symptoms which would confuse the mind of a mother, who might be desirous to follow his instructions. He has clearly pointed out the characteristic symptoms, and particularly the leading ones, of the early stages of disease, when a judicious treatment will prevent serious mischief. This is more particularly the province of a mother. He very properly urges the necessity of cleanliness as the most likely means to keep the system in a healthy condition. For this important purpose, he highly extols *tepid* and *warm* ablution, in opposition to *cold* and *sea* bathing; the former being more congenial to nature, in promoting her various operations. Cold bathing being a repellent, he considers it "wholly adverse to that

gentleness and uniformity of action, so visible in every part of the animal economy." He also impresses on the minds of his readers the truth, that medicine, in proportion as it is repugnant to the operations of nature, will in its influence be more destructive to the tender frame and constitution of a child; and he urges the unerring maxim, "that the chief sources of the diseases of children being *neglect, mismanagement,* and *accidents,* so parents may be sure that caution is superior to skill, and prevention better than cure." The work on the whole is creditable to Sir Arthur, both as a Christian and physician. It comprises much valuable practical information; and for the purpose for which it is published, viz. as a Medical Guide for Mothers, is very superior to any other extant.

GALVANISM.—*(From Dr. De Sanctis, Member of the Royal College of Physicians, &c. &c. &c.)*—"SIRS, Projects in medicine would be unworthy of the name, and less of that of curative methods, if we were not certain of the first effects, at least, taking place as presupposed. The confirmation of the first actions is a great step towards the probability of the successive ones. It is for this reason I wished to ascertain the possibility of galvanic discharges along the metallic tube, which in the reanimating project lately published by me, was proposed to be pushed through the gullet to the bottom of the stomach. The flexible tube was entirely metallic when I directed discharges from the pensile galvanic pile across the breast, then the stomach, neck, and spine, of a cat, whose life had been artificially suspended; but there is a material difference between the length of the gullet of a man and a cat; and even if the tube should be very flexible, it would perhaps be difficult to introduce it into the stomach of a middle-sized person. Add to this the danger of breaking such a tube, which has always been a serious reason that many respectable professional men decline the adoption of the short ones for the urethra. I therefore turned my thoughts to some other substance, which being made into a tube, would be as flexible as required for forming the curve necessary for its introduction in the human body, and by the form and dimensions suitable to a portable medical chest, and which, at the same time, would be sufficiently elastic to prevent the collapsing sides of the gullet from obtruding it. It would not afterwards be difficult to insert through the whole length of the tube a metallic spiral wire, which would be equally pliable. It did not appear very easy to the most distinguished artist of this metropolis, to form such a tube with elastic gum, a substance which naturally presented itself to the idea as having been used before, in similar cases, for injecting liquids into the stomach, notwithstanding they were very far from answering completely the intended purpose, on account of their shortness; and allowing a possibility of producing a tube of twenty-two inches in length, (the least that can be adopted for general application, and perhaps too little for extraordinarily tall people) they were not sure of the result, when they were desired to add the metallic wire outside. I, however, was not entirely satisfied with the substitution of this substance to the flexible metallic tube;—1stly, Because the new tubes would be less liable to be more bent

than required.—2dly, On account of their being easily damaged when of considerable diameter; and, indeed, the original cost would be large enough without the expence of repairs—and lastly, From the necessity of an additional tube to the globe of one, for attaching it conveniently to the other. Upon further consideration, I recollected another substance, perhaps more fit for the purpose—I mean the Russian leather; I have seen pipes furnished with light tubes of that article. They were flexible and elastic enough for the smoke to pass through them. These being cheap, and not requiring reparation, would be very well calculated for completing a chest of instruments for cases of suspended animation, which might happen both at sea and on rivers, as well as in every town and village. Besides, nothing can be more easy than the insertion of the metallic wire on their rough external surface to the most commodious extent, for the application of the conductor of the pile; and nothing can prevent their being brought to the length of three feet, for the convenient position of the attached globe of ether, on the one or the other of the receptacles, placed at the shoulders of the chair, or along the arms of wood, moveable around them, and which form the legs of the same, when changed into a bed. The section of the tubes should not be much larger than that of the former gullet tubes of elastic gum, which was nearly three-eighths of an inch; it will then, certainly, prevent any admission of air into the stomach and appendages. Too large a diameter would not only be superfluous for preventing the air from passing into the stomach, and unnecessary for placing the spiral metallic tube every where in contact with the collapsing gullet, but might be prejudicial to the free passage of the air into the lungs, as I have seen in many instances pieces of sponge, of a moderate size, pushed through the gullet, diminish the diameter of the wind-pipe, by forcing the posterior part of that channel when it is only membranous towards the opposite one, till it had sometimes entirely closed the passage. But I was much pleased to observe in the same experiments, that whatever might be the substance closing and extending the pharinx, it was never able to shut the *rima glottidis* from back to the front, notwithstanding it could diminish it a little; there will be no inconvenience in adopting, if necessary, the elastic regulator for introducing the gullet tube for the better closing the pharynx, and for bringing at its very place beyond and down the epiglottis the end of the annexed regulator for the larynx-tube.

The epiglottis in dead bodies generally appears more like a prominent line than a covering of the glottis, when depressed; but should it be otherwise, it will never present an obstacle to the regulator, if the tongue be drawn forward.—*(To be continued.)*

PESTILENTIAL DISEASES.—The question of the laws which regulate the generation and production of epidemic diseases having of late been discussed with that party spirit which never leads to the establishment of facts, Dr. Hancock, an able physician of London, was induced to adopt the subject for the oration he was appointed to deliver at the last meeting of the London Medical Society. The doctor commenced by noticing the circumstances and peculiarities

of the destructive plague which prevailed in London in the year 1665, the history of which he summed up by the following deductions:—

"1. The disease discovered itself about the end of the year 1664, and *first appeared among the poor in St. Giles's.*

"2. A severe winter arrested its progress till the next spring; and a long prevalence of southerly winds favoured its diffusion in the summer.

"3. It was preceded by great mortality from other diseases, and particularly from an epidemic pestilential fever.

"4. It was matter of doubt, whether this fever was the plague or not.

"5. In the parish where it first prevailed, the mortality from other diseases was most decidedly marked.

"6. It was progressive in its march from one part to another, ceasing or abating in the west before it proceeded eastward.

"7. It exhibited various symptoms or characters in its beginning, height, and decline.

"8. The train of diseases which had preceded it, on its decline re-appeared; and its decrease was, like its increase, moderate.

"On each of these heads I shall take the liberty," said Dr. H., "of making a few observations, chiefly with the view of comparing the phenomena of this formidable pestilence with those of other epidemic plagues.

"First. The disease discovered itself about the end of the preceding year, and first appeared among the poor in St. Giles's.

"I notice," he continued, "the former fact to show that it is not unusual for an epidemic pestilence to exhibit some signs of its approach at the decline of the preceding year, at least in our northern latitudes.

"This was the case in the plague at Nimeguen, in 1636, so well described by Diemerbroeck.

"It was the case also in the plagues at Stockholm, Dantzic, and Hamburgh, about the beginning of the last century.

"Mertens informs us, that the plague of 1771, in Moscow, began in the same manner.

"In the latter end of the preceding year appeared the plague of 1478, and the black pestilence of 1348, in London.

"These all subsided the following winter."

After illustrating these several propositions in detail, the orator proceeds to remark, that,

"A few corollaries of practical import seem to be deducible from the foregoing sketch:—

"1. Condensed human effluvia, the product of local filth, and crowded ill-ventilated houses, as in large cities, are connected with the origin of almost all epidemic plagues; and their spread has been generally in proportion to the extent of those local causes.

"Therefore, cleanliness in person, in houses, and in streets, is of prime importance to prevent the first germ of contagion from coming into existence, or supporting its existence amongst us.

"Therefore, all great cities, which, since the middle of the seven-

teenth century, have adopted judicious regulations in these respects, have experienced a corresponding benefit, and exemption from this great evil.

" 2. Epidemic plagues have, in all countries, been preceded by certain indications, (varied, however, much in different climates and seasons) of a pestilential constitution of the air, either by unusual phenomena, or the prevalence of uncommon diseases.

" Therefore, an indispensable accident, without which pestilential diseases cannot spread, so as to be entitled to the appellation of epidemic, is what is termed by Mead a corrupt or " ill state of air."

" Therefore, human prudence might possibly avail much by regarding, with vigilant observation, the physical signs of the times, and especially by enforcing the regulations above alluded to.

" 3. Epidemic plagues have generally followed a stated rule in every place, both in the time of their beginning and the time of their decline.

" Therefore, in other times or seasons of the year, and in other places where no precursory signs have appeared, their dissemination may be pronounced highly improbable; and if the mortality has been very severe, they will cease at the usual time; but if other epidemic diseases start up, their decline may be prognosticated with more certainty.

" 4. In all epidemic plagues, multitudes, even of those palpably exposed to the contagion, are not affected by it; others are affected very slightly; others are relieved from the sufferings occasioned by previous chronic disorders; others, though separated from their blood relations, have been seized at the same time with them; others, valetudinarians before, enjoy unusual health and alacrity, during the whole pestilential period; and others are seized with the disorder, without being able to trace it to any possible source.

" Therefore, the risk of infection and of danger is by no means so certain as to create despondency, or to dissuade from active exertions in the public welfare.

" Therefore, flight or seclusion does not always protect the timorous from the disease; but in such cases, the danger will be in proportion to the violence and spread of the epidemic; therefore neighbouring towns will seldom have much to fear, in opening their gates and hearts to the miserable fugitives.

" Therefore, the observation of Lord Bacon is generally true, that ' the plague is noted to go in a blood more than from stranger to stranger.'

" Therefore the maxim is verified, that what is injurious to one is found to be beneficial to another; so widely do constitutions differ.

" Therefore, the objection to a general state of air being in fault, that it does not display its effects more universally, is answered even by these facts, without reference to the signs of an ill state of air, or to the preceding epidemics, or to the state of the disease itself, and its acknowledged change of property in the beginning and decline.

" *Therefore, the probability is, that contagion is only subordinate, and does not act the primary and essential part in the dissemination of pestilence.*

"5. In all epidemic plagues, care and anxiety, filth and defective nutriment, hurry and fatigue, anger, and intemperance of every description, have acted as predisposing and accelerating causes of the distemper.

"Therefore, calmness and regularity, patience under difficulties, careful ablution, a full, rather generous, system of diet, under the guidance of temperance in every thing, the spirit of benevolence and piety, such as marked the conduct of Hodges and Diemerbroeck, Langeron and the Bishop of Marseilles, are better prophylactics and antidotes to the disease than can be supplied by all the 'well-stored magazines of health, and boasted implements of our art.'"

The doctor then commented upon the analogies of yellow fever with plague, as far as those analogies have a bearing upon the mode in which the distemper, in either case, is generated and propagated: he further adverted to the circumstances connected with the origin and spread of other contagions, alluding forcibly to the admitted fact, that some diseases which are traced more positively to specific contagion, are convertible occasionally into those that are not contagious; and with the following inferences was concluded this highly interesting and very candid discussion:—

"These being facts, they are much better than doubts. The general inference from all may be summed up in a few words.

"We have undoubted testimony, that certain chronic diseases, generally acknowledged to be contagious, originate amongst us in peculiar habits, under peculiar circumstances.

"We have, also, undoubted testimony, that among acute diseases, common contagious fever originates at certain times, under certain circumstances.

"It is supported by equal authority, that common contagious fever may be so aggravated by peculiar circumstances, as to assume characters of extraordinary malignity.

"It is no less true, that the highest degree of common contagious fever has, on some occasions, approached so nearly to the plague, that a certain diagnosis has in vain been attempted.

"*Therefore, the probability, indeed, the most natural inference is, that the disease called epidemic plague is only the highest degree, or a variety of common contagious fever;* and as the latter often originates without contagion, so, it is inferred, may the former; and if in one instance, so it may in many; and where there is a strong predisposition, it is impossible to conceive, but that morbid effluvia from the diseased to the sound must assist in propagating the mischief, by acting as a powerful exciting cause."

HOOPING COUGH.—A gentleman in Nottinghamshire informs us that he has administered the prussic acid in the dose of one drop three times a-day, in two table-spoonsful of almond emulsion, with the most complete success in several cases of hooping cough which had resisted the use of emetics, the hemlock, acetated ceruse, and other popular remedies.

From our correspondent in Paris, we learn that the sulphuret of potass, with the tincture of foxglove, is a very favourite remedy with

some leading physicians in that metropolis, for the hooping cough. The following is a translation of his prescription:—

Take of Sulphuret of Potass,
Tincture of Foxglove, of each one drachm,
Extract of Liquorice Root, two drachms,
Almond Emulsion, six ounces,
Gum Arabic Powder, three drachms. Mix.

A dessert-spoonful to be given to a child from three to six years of age, and a table-spoonful from six to ten; two dessert-spoonsful from ten to fifteen, and two table-spoonsful from fifteen to twenty, three times a-day.

DR. SCUDAMORE'S BOOK ON GOUT.—Dr. Uwins, in a brief notice of a new edition of this work, observes that it is swollen out to a "*dropsical* bulk." This discovery does not surprise us; for such was the watery nature of the contents of the first edition, that we did not suppose that it could possibly live to a second. By the aid of a certain puffing class of critics, its life has been prolonged to an extent highly creditable to those puffing scribblers, who have the vanity to suppose themselves equal to the task of deciding the fate of all medical productions. As Dr. Uwins is very laudably engaged in collecting *facts*, we shall relate one which he may record in his Repository, if he judges it sufficiently important, viz. That during our examination of the first edition of Dr. Scudamore's work, we experienced seven *paroxysms* of sound sleep, from two of which we were with difficulty roused. As the doctor is well acquainted with the work, we shall leave him to determine whether these attacks were the effects of the watery contents of the work, or the efforts we made to prevent the wandering of the mind. If the doctor has waded through the dropsical edition, every medical man who is acquainted with the work, will allow that great credit is due to him for his philosophical perseverance. Were we to commence so trying a task, it would be with the dread of having, at least, a cataleptic fit.

ANIMAL MAGNETISM.—We have received from an *intelligent* physician in Berlin, a long account of the wonderful effects of animal magnetism on a variety of nervous diseases. "It is now," says he, "not only practised by the most eminent physicians in the Prussian dominions, but by many German *philosophers*. In Prussia it is common for a physician to take a seat before his patient, and after distorting his countenance by the most exerted efforts of grimaces and gesticulations, *gracefully* to put his arms into motion, with his eyes fixed stedfastly on those of his patient. The legs afterwards move with the arms, and it not unfrequently happens that the physician so far enters into the spirit of this magical system, as to take a curious figurative dance round the room, with the wig in one hand and the cane in the other." By this practice, our correspondent observes, a kind of equilibrium is established between the animal principle of the patient and the doctor, which is beneficial to both. The King of Prussia entertains so high an opinion of the efficacy of this system, that the government under his direction has ordered the academy to propose a prize of three hundred ducats "for the best explanation of the phenomena of animal magnetism,

and of the experiments hitherto made, *divesting them* of the marvellous with which they have been interlarded"!! Who will dare to assert, after the sanction of such a practice by the government of an enlightened part of Europe, that the science of medicine is not rapidly advancing? If any physician in this kingdom should deem it absurd, we would ask him, if it be more ridiculous or more disgraceful to Prussia, than the Bye-Laws of the College of Physicians are to this country?

MAD DOCTORS, MAD HOUSES, &c.—The following most cruel case of persecution cannot fail to excite the commiseration of our female, and the indignation of our *English* male readers. That neither may suppose it to be exaggerated, we deem it proper to state, that we have had the opportunity of ascertaining that the statement is correct.

About three weeks ago, a medical gentleman, on calling to see a patient whom he had been attending nearly two months, was informed by the mistress of the house, that she had been taken, against her consent, to a *mad house*, under the authority of a certificate of lunacy. The medical man not having discovered any symptom indicating any thing like aberration of mind during his attendance on her, but, on the contrary, having found her to possess extraordinary talents, called the following morning on the proprietor of the mad house in which she was confined, for an explanation of these apparently most outrageous or mysterious proceedings. The keeper told him that he and his wife took her into custody by the desire of her husband, under the authority of a certificate from a Mr. B. dated six weeks back!! The certificate he refused to shew him. On his interview with the lady, he found her perfectly sane. To the question when the gentleman who gave the certificate saw her, she replied, "*eight months ago.*"!!! She entered, with a coolness indicative of a broken heart, and a thorough resignation to the worst that could possibly happen to her in this world, into a narrative of her sufferings during the last six years of her life;—a narrative which indeed harrowed up his soul, and made him waver in opinion with Pythagoras, that the souls of brutes inherit the trunks of men.

Her medical friend, with the feelings of a true Englishman, immediately after this visit, acquainted the Secretary to the Commissioners, appointed under a late act of parliament, for examining mad houses, with these most outrageous proceedings, who, highly to his credit, lost no time in appointing a meeting of the commissioners. The lady was accordingly examined as to the soundness of her mind, and the result was such as satisfied every man present of her sanity. The certificate, not being signed by a *medical* man, as required by act of parliament, was deemed illegal, and the proprietor of the house was reprimanded for acting upon it. By her request her medical friend sent a solicitor to her, who, by a writ of Habeas Corpus, had her brought up before a judge, in order to ascertain if she was a proper subject for a mad house. His Lordship entered into no conversation with her. Certificates were produced of her sanity, but the opposite party solicited time to produce counter-

certificates, and she was accordingly re-conducted to the mad-house, to take up her abode with a set of miserably-looking maniacs!!

At the Judge's chambers she met with her husband for the first time after her separation. This, with other circumstances, greatly agitated her mind. On her return to the mad house, in company with the keeper, she found a *young* physician to a lunatic hospital waiting to examine her as to the sanity of her mind.—She observed to him, that her *kind friends* certainly appointed him to see her at a very *proper* time. "But, Sir," observed she, emphatically, "you may come at any time; and, agitated as I am by what I have just gone through at the Judge's chambers, you will not find me otherwise than *rational*." This physician afterwards visited her three times, in company with another young physician of a mad hospital, by the particular desire of her husband. These gentlemen gave a most extraordinary certificate, that she was not *exactly* insane, but that she had betrayed such symptoms of depravity or levity, that for the happiness of herself and her family, they thought she should be placed under some restraint. The depravity she had betrayed, was speaking of a gentleman in warm terms of friendship who had come forward in her defence. Her relatives had artfully insinuated to them that an improper intimacy existed between the lady and her friend, although they must have been aware that the gentleman was actuated only by the purest spirit of philanthropy.—He, except her medical attendant, was the only friend she had in the world; and had she not had such a benevolent character to defend her, her situation at this time would have been most deplorable. On her second appearance at the chambers of the Judge, her husband's solicitor urged a further indulgence of time to obtain affidavits of her insanity. On this interview with the Judge, her solicitor earnestly requested his lordship to give him permission to visit her, in order that he might receive further instructions from her; but his lordship, after hearing some observations from the opposite side, refused to grant it: thus is this unhappy woman left in the custody of her persecutors. That a woman, under such circumstances, should not be allowed to see her legal adviser, to us appears to be a most extraordinary measure. During the time the party were engaged with the Judge, she wrote a note to his lordship in the antichamber, which she was not allowed to present.—Of that note, the following is an exact copy:—

"My Lord,—We hear of daily instances of people committing the most desperate and lawless crimes, set at liberty upon bail for their appearance.—I hope your lordship sees nothing in my conduct which merits the loss of my liberty, particularly when my appearance HERE can be guaranteed whenever you order it. Under these circumstances, I pray your lordship not to remand me. I have suffered much already, the particulars of which I shall not obtrude upon you; I hope it is only necessary for your lordship to reflect by *whom I am persecuted*, and I am sure you will act with that *feeling* and *humanity* for which your lordship is equally distinguished in public as in private life."

Two eminent physicians, who have paid particular attention to

diseases of the mind, have since seen her, and declare her to be perfectly sane. She was married at the age of fifteen, and is at this time only twenty-six years of age.

When she entered the matrimonial state, her mind was well stored, and her disposition was so amiable and tractable, that to a man capable of appreciating her worth, she would have proved a treasure.

She is a lady of very extraordinary talents. She has received a very superior education, and her literary acquirements and accomplishments fit her more for the society of a prince, than that of a poor depraved wretch, who feels more gratification from the lusts of the flesh, than the feasts of reason.

Her feelings are acute, and her attachment to her children most ardent. But poor Bella's beauties were chiefly mental. Although her husband has an annual income of several hundreds, for the last six years she has not been mistress of five shillings, and at this time we believe she has not a change of linen. Such, however, has been her prudence, that she has not contracted one debt, nor has she ever done one act to annoy her husband, until he had recourse to this most unprecedented outrageous proceeding, to confine her within the walls of a mad house, in order that she might not have it in her power to sue for her rights. The opinion of her husband's physicians, that she should be kept under restraint on the score of depravity, is to us a most extraordinary one. Is it the duty of a physician to decide on a point of morality? and on *their* decision is she to be deprived of her liberty—to be shut up for the remainder of her life with a set of irrational filthy beings?—To the certificates of what are termed, and certainly sometimes not inaptly so, Mad Doctors, judges pay more attention than to those of physicians in general practice. It appears to us, that such certificates are entitled to less attention; for the "mad doctors" are very apt to attribute every unguarded or hasty expression, or thoughtless act, to aberration of mind. It is with them as it is with water and liver doctors, who see nothing but urine, &c. in the cases of their patients. It is assuredly to the interest of mad doctors to notice every violent expression or keen look, as confirmations strong of insanity, and to the interest of the proprietors of mad houses to confirm their opinion; and hence the villany of relatives has too often succeeded in confining sane persons in a mad house for life, in order to get possession of their property, or from some other sordid motive. The lady has some time been engaged in writing her own history; and, from what we have heard of it, we may venture to assert, that a narrative more interesting, or more tragical, has never appeared in this or any other country. Her readers, instead of pronouncing her a mad woman, will rather be surprised that her mind should continue sane under such distressing circumstances. Strong, indeed, must have been that mind that was capable of supporting such cruel persecution. *(To be continued.)*

COLLEGE CONSISTENCY.—One of the leading Fellows of the Royal College of Physicians in London, informs us that a physician lately settled within the limits of their annoying power, has

obtained permission to exercise his profession, in consequence of having promised to qualify himself by a residence at Paris for two years! Thus a physician, who has received his professional education at the first medical school in the known world (London), who has exercised the profession for many years in his Majesty's service, and who thinks himself equal to the task of criticising the medical productions of the Fellows of the College, finds it necessary to comply with the mandates of the College, by spending two years of a life, already far advanced, at a school, where the teachers of that branch of medicine, the immediate province of the physician, are about one thousand years behind those of London, in pathology and the treatment of diseases! His education will then be deemed regular, because he has had the advantage of inhaling the *classic air* of a university!! The *airs* of the college, whether classic or rational in their ideas, will materially militate against the interest of the London hospitals; for if a pupil is to escape the insulting conduct of the college physicians, to which those of the London hospitals are subjected on settling within the jurisdiction of the College with an honorary diploma, viz. of being stigmatised as *irregular* men, or in other words, as quacks, he will give the preference to a school, the education of which places him above insult. In Paris the lectures and hospitals are open to the pupils of all countries, *free of expense.* Board and lodging are also very considerably cheaper there than in London. A young man may have board and lodging in a genteel family, for twenty pounds a-year. For anatomy, chemistry, and practical surgery, it is not inferior to the London schools. It is only contemptible in the theories of the causes and treatment of diseases.

The College of Physicians betray a great want of knowledge of the human mind, by limiting the period of study. According to their laws, a man who has resided two years at an university, although not a medical school, is a *regular* practitioner; whilst the man who has attended the London hospitals twenty years, the best school in the known world, is to be insulted by the epithet of a Quack. With them, it is the *air* of an university that makes the physician, and not *experience.* That a body of people should be allowed, in a country which professes to be the most enlightened in the world, to enforce such irrational laws, and so grossly to insult science and common sense with impunity, is not creditable to its government. What can indeed be more ridiculous, than to allow a person to exercise the healing art for a certain time, on his promising to qualify himself for an examination? If they insist on his residing two years at an university, the rational inference is, that his education is defective, and therefore he should not be allowed to practise till he is duly qualified. The College, without any examination, requires him to go to an university, no matter where, so as it is an university, to render him an eligible candidate for a licence!! Was the charter granted by the College to enable them to insult men, who, in point of classical or modern medical knowledge, are in no respect their inferiors, with impunity? Let us rather suppose that they have abused the power it gives them, and that the policy of their bye laws will soon undergo legislative enquiry.

PULMONARY CONSUMPTION.—Dr. Harke, a Russian physician, has found the acetate of lead very beneficial in allaying morbid irritability of the lungs. He notices two cases of pulmonary consumption, in which it proved successful. This remedy is recommended in an early edition of the Medical Guide for incipient consumption, and as Dr. Harke employed the vehicle there specified for its exhibition, we suspect he is indebted to that work for his knowledge of it.

MRS. COURTENAY.—"SIRS,—If Mrs. Courtenay be the lady alluded to in the letter published in the fifty-first number of the Gazette of Health, and signed a 'Friend to Science,' I assure you, upon the honour of a gentleman, the matter it contains, as far as regards her, is entirely false. I have had the pleasure of intimately knowing Mrs. Courtenay all my life; both of us and our families having lived in the same town in Suffolk. To my certain knowledge, Mrs. Courtenay never left her mother's house until she was grown up, and then she lived with Mrs. Firmin, of Dedham, in the county of Essex, where I received my education; however, not, as a 'Friend to Science' has thought proper to state, a servant, but as the intimate friend of that lady; and, to the admiration of every one who had the happiness of her acquaintance, she remained with Mrs. Firmin, until that lady's death, when she returned to her mother, from whose house her husband, Dr. Courtenay, married her.

"Having seen the letter above alluded to, and knowing the falsehood it contains, I have to request this may be inserted in the next number of the Gazette of Health, in order that the lady's character, which is *purity itself*, may not sustain the least injury from the attack.

I am, Sirs, your obedient Servant,

"7, *King Street, Cheapside,* "HENRY WOODCOCK."

"24*th April*, 1820.

We suspect that Mr. Woodcock is not correct in supposing that our correspondent, in his letter on Quackery, alludes to Mrs. Courtenay; as some of our readers may have fallen into the same error as Mr. Woodcock, we have thought proper to insert his letter.

QUACK MEDICINES.—We are happy to find that Dr. Paris, a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, has evinced a disposition to assist us in exposing the traffic of quackery. For the following information we are indebted to him:—

Madden's Essence.—"Is little else than the infusion of roses."

Oxley's Essence of Ginger.—"A mere *solution* of ginger in rectified spirit."

"*Anderson's Pills* consist of aloes, with a proportion of jalap, and oil of aniseed."

Hooper's Pills.—"Pil, Rufi, Sulphate of iron, and canella bark."

Dixon's Antibilious Pills.—"Aloes, scammony, rhubarb, and tartarized antimony."

Speediman's Pills.—"Aloes, myrrh, rhubarb, extract of camomile, and some essential oil of camomile."

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Of Sir LUCAS PEPYS, Bart.

Late President of the Royal College of Physicians, late Physician-general to the Army, and late Physician to the Middlesex Hospital.

This medical luminary is a native of Cheshire, a county chiefly celebrated for thick cheeses, large donkies, and lean calves. His eldest brother having displayed the peculiar ingenuity of argument and quickness of conception, which are so essentially necessary to form a good lawyer, his father very judiciously brought him up to the bar, and for some years he was a Master in Chancery. Master Lucas, evincing an extraordinary talent for the study of the dead languages, was sent to Oxford to prosecute an acquaintance with the classics. During his residence at this university he did not concentrate the rays of his luminous mind either on the opinions or habits of the antients; but, like all great philosophers, occasionally relaxed it, so as to enter fully into the *rational* amusements for which the students of the English universities are so justly celebrated on the continent. This happy faculty secured for him the permanent friendship of a few young noblemen, whose object was similar to his own, of being "*groundly* learned."

Mr. Lucas, after keeping a few terms, fixed on the fee trade, as the most likely to afford him the means of supporting a splendid establishment among his college friends in the metropolis, and of turning the connexion he had so wisely cultivated to an advantage. Finding that at Oxford he could not obtain a sufficient knowledge of medicine to enable him to discharge the important duties of a physician with satisfaction to himself or his patients, he determined to visit Edinburgh. Here he attended lectures on medicine and the practice of the Infirmary. He was also one of those members of a medical society which are termed "Thinkers," *i. e.* attending to all that is said, but saying nothing. Having, as *he* supposed, collected all the knowledge, theoretical and practical, this celebrated school could afford, he returned to Oxford, to obtain the distinguished honour of a degree of M.D. By this plan he not only graduated without being subjected to the often embarrassing inconvenience of an examination "touching his medical acquirement;" but on commencing his medical career in London, he was admitted, as a matter of course, a Fellow of the Royal College, which placed him above the graduates of the Scotch universities, the former being, by virtue of their charter, authorised to undertake the treatment of the most complex cases of disease, whilst the latter are represented by them to be qualified only to practise in simple cases!!

His uncle, Dr. Russell, of Brighton, having given some publicity to his name, by a treatise on the efficacy of sea air and bathing in

a few constitutional diseases, the doctor determined to spend the summer seasons in that town, where for some years he had no competitor. Here, with the assistance of his uncle, he formed a connection, which contributed greatly to favour his progress in the metropolis. Soon after he settled in London, he was elected Physician to the Middlesex Hospital, the duties of which he no doubt discharged to his own satisfaction. He afterwards had the good fortune of securing the affection of the Countess of Rothes, whom he married in 1772. Through this high connection he was introduced to the first families in the kingdom. In 1813, three years after the death of the Countess, he married a Miss Askew, daughter of a physician of the same name, who boasted of possessing an extensive collection of books. About this time one of his university companions, *or* students, obtained for him the appointment of Physician Extraordinary to the late King, with the title of Baronet.

During His Majesty's indisposition in the years 1788 and 1789, Sir Lucas was appointed Physician in ordinary to his Majesty. The bulletins exhibited on this melancholy occasion were chiefly from his pen, and no doubt conveyed as much information of the real state of his Majesty's affliction, and the probability of his recovery, as his masters thought proper to be communicated. They afforded ample room for conjecture, and were by some admired for a beautiful sameness.

His Majesty's malady terminating favourably, Sir Lucas, as a reward for his judicious treatment, was appointed Physician-general to the army, a situation of great emolument and extensive patronage. Although Sir Lucas had had no experience in diseases of the army, or in the inspection of army hospitals and camps, he boldly embarked in the exercise of his office, probably from a conviction that the complaint of his Majesty had not run a natural course, or that he was not indebted to a naturally good constitution for his recovery, as some physicians had insinuated; and having been thus lucky in his Majesty's case, he might also be as fortunate in his new situation. Sir Lucas, being a President of the College of Physicians, did not lose sight of the pecuniary interest of that learned body of medical philosophers, in the appointment of physicians in the army. In his opinion no one could be qualified to hold such an important office, who was not a fellow or licentiate of the college. By this regulation the funds of the college were considerably increased, each licentiate being required to pay nearly eighty pounds for his qualification!! To what purpose the money thus collected was applied, we have not been able to ascertain. In consequence of this politic arrangement, physicians were appointed to the army who were totally ignorant of the diseases which prevailed in it, and of management of the army hospitals. Notwithstanding the frequent complaints of injury the army would sustain in consequence of such appointments, Sir Lucas persisted in enforcing regulations, which he contended had met with the approbation of his friends in power, and particularly of the Royal College of Physicians. An unfortunate circumstance at length happened, which frustrated the learned Physician-general's politic plans, destroyed the influence of the College in the medical

department of the army, and clearly developed the object of Sir Lucas's wise arrangements. A most expensive expedition to Walcheren, wisely arranged by the Commander-in-chief, failed, apparently in consequence of the ignorance of the Physician-general of the army, of the inhabitants being subject to an epidemic at that season of the year. To that epidemic some thousands of our brave countrymen fell a sacrifice!! The cause of this most disastrous and most melancholy affair was investigated by a committee of the House of Commons. The Physician-general to the army was accordingly examined. Sir Lucas, supposing that the committee were ignorant of medicine, boldly appeared before them, under a conviction that he should come off with eclat. The interrogatories of the committee did not a little astonish him. When presiding at a meeting of the censors of the College, to examine candidates for a licence, Sir Lucas, decorated with the monastic paraphernalia of office—the imposing wig and gown, was a great man and a very confident examiner in the Latin language. This President of the College of Physicians was now compelled to submit to an examination of his medical qualifications by gentlemen who had not studied medicine!! Their questions soon satisfied Sir Lucas that they were not so ignorant of medicine as he had imagined, or the College wished them to be. The questions were so pertinent and judicious, that the learned President betrayed the embarrassment he had so often witnessed in the timid candidates for a licence. He confessed his ignorance of the nature of the Walcheren epidemic, and of the diseases of the army!! He had read, or thought he had read, something of them, but whether it was in the works of Pringle, or in any other, he could not recollect. His answers to many questions would have disgraced an assistant surgeon in the army, or indeed an apprentice to an apothecary, after three years' servitude. The result of this enquiry convinced the ministers of the necessity of dismissing the learned physician-general, and of dissolving the medical board. A new board was accordingly appointed, consisting of practitioners who were acquainted with the diseases of the army, at the head of which was placed Sir James Macgregor, a physician who had had much experience in the diseases of the army, and conversant with all the branches of medicine. The College of Physicians, on this occasion, felt their degradation so sensibly, that Sir Lucas, on the expiration of the term of presidency, was not re-elected.

During the presidency of Sir Lucas Pepys, the College published, what they thought proper to term, a *corrected* edition of their Pharmacopœia, the preface of which was written by Sir Lucas Pepys. As a latinist, this composition is creditable to Sir Lucas. Drs. Latham, Powell, and Heberden, speak in high terms of approbation of it, as a pretty specimen of *modern* latinity. With the chemical part of the Pharmacopœia, which has certainly not raised the College in the estimation of chemical judges, Sir Lucas has publicly declared he had nothing to do. Sir Lucas is also a good Grecian, and so great an admirer of the Works of Hippocrates, that he often quoted him, in the original language, even at the bed-side of a patient, to the great astonishment of

the attending apothecary and nurses. Sir Lucas, like a luminary in surgery, (Mr. Cline) has a great aversion to his name appearing in print, the policy of which we shall not question. His name, as well as Mr. Cline's, has, however, as often appeared in the public papers, when attending a person of high life, as that of any other practitioner; and the proprietors of the papers being paid for the insertion of such *important* intelligence, the inference is, of course, the patients send the paragraphs to satisfy their friends that all that the healing art can effect will be done to restore them to health, or to mitigate their sufferings, in case their maladies should be incurable. As an author, Sir Lucas is not known; and in consequence of his antipathy to his name appearing in print, his discoveries or observations, if any he has made, will probably die with him. With chemistry and surgery, two of the most important branches of medicine, we believe he is as little acquainted as acknowledged himself to be with the diseases of the army. From this short sketch of the medical life of Sir Lucas, which is worthy of notice only in consequence of the appointments he has held, it appears that his decline was as rapid as his elevation. The sun, which first shone on him, and which raised him by its patronage, rapidly directed its rays to another individual. His medical career, which had been so brilliant, soon terminated. He wisely left the field of action, for a retired spot near his native place, Leatherhead, where we hope he will long enjoy the sweets of repose, and the melodious notes of the blackbird and nightingale, for which the place is celebrated, as well as the noble *wooting* of the owls, which adds to the solemnity of a moon-light night, in so romantic a situation. This article cannot, perhaps, more appropriately terminate, than with the celebrated lines of Jane Shore:—

> In vain he may look back, in vain deplore,
> He sets like stars, that fall to rise no more.

THE AIR PUMP VAPOUR BATH.—Having briefly noticed, in a recent number, Mr. La Beaume's publication on the effects of the air pump vapour bath, in cases of gout, palsy, and rheumatism, we now proceed to enter fully into its merits.

Well authenticated facts, in regard to the success of any remedy, constitute the only true legitimate ground of confidence with the public, as well as with the medical profession and men of science in general. It is much in favour of this treatise that the most interesting doctrines introduced to our consideration are confirmed, not only by the author's own extensive practice, but likewise the opinion of several highly respectable medical characters, who have a well founded conviction of the great utility of the air pump vapour bath.

The machine consists of several parts, a metallic cylinder or vessel into which the disordered limb is placed, at the extremity of which a bladder is attached to prevent the steam from escaping and the air from rushing into the machine during the process of exhaustion. At the other end of the vessel is placed a stop-cock and tube, to which a small boiler containing water is affixed; the steam from thence passing into the machine through the stop-cock, and the fluid

evaporated by a spirit-lamp, placed under the boiler, together with a thermometer to shew the temperature of the fumigation, and to regulate the degree of heat: here an air pump is firmly attached for the purpose of exhausting the machine when the fumigation has continued the proper time, and also an escape valve, with which is connected a flexible pipe adapted to convey off the vitiated air occasioned by the nature of the complaint sought to be remedied. There is also another stop-cock, used to prevent the valves of the pump being injured by the hot vapour in its passage from the boiler.

"The apparatus of the air pump vapour bath," observes Mr. La Beaume, "comprehends and for the first time unites the effects of fomentation and the cupping-glass, two of the most powerful external means that have ever been resorted to for acting on disease. Water and air, which till lately were thought simple and undecomposable bodies, are the means by which its powers are put in action. The first is made the vehicle for conveying the matter of heat into the system, and increasing the force of the circulation for relaxing spasmodic contractions, and removing obstructions, and at the same time for giving tone to the vascular system."

With regard to the principle of the air pump, he states—"It is proved by experiment that the weight of the atmosphere is a pressure on the human body of fifteen pounds per square inch, that the surface of an ordinary man's body is about 2,160 square inches, which multiplied by fifteen, gives nearly fourteen tons and a half, and that this enormous pressure is completely counteracted by the resistance of the air or other elastic fluid diffused through every part of our bodies. Hence it follows that where the air is removed by the air pump from any part of the surface of the body, a determination of the contiguous juices of the body towards such part will necessarily be produced."

Dr. Blegborough, in a late communication, observes, that the apparatus in question is calculated to produce excellent effects in changing the action of diseased parts; that he was confident it would rank among the first of the modern improvements in the healing art, proving a powerful agent, not only of alleviating, but frequently of removing many diseases which have been hitherto deemed incurable; that every day's experience is affording fresh evidence of its efficacy in gout, rheumatism, palsy, contraction of the muscles, cutaneous and other diseases, particularly of the chronic kind.

Dr. Hamilton, physician to the London Dispensary, asserts, that "the machine is likely to be of the greatest use to mankind, in enabling obstructed vessels to unload themselves; that the mode in which it operates is certainly agreeable to *sound theory*, and that the more it is put in practice, the oftener will facts occur to confirm what he has now advanced; that he not only views it as valuable to remove local affections of the extremities, but also to afford relief to other parts of the body, where obstructions may have taken place: that its power is highly efficacious in producing a general and copious perspiration, as in diabetes, dropsy, and other maladies where the skin is parched, dry, and hard.—"Was I not," says the

Doctor, "so far advanced in life, and so much engaged in other avocations, I would with gladness have devoted my time to the use of it, thoroughly convinced that it would prove useful to the distressed and honourable to myself."

It appears that the late learned and ingenious Dr. Garnett was so much struck with the value of this discovery, that on hearing of it, he immediately procured one of the machines, which he forthwith exhibited, and explained in a lecture on gout, which made one of his interesting discourses on Zoonomia.

The justly celebrated Dr. Hufeland, professor of medicine of the university of Berlin, and decidedly the leading physician of Germany, has for many years most successfully employed this remedy.

Mr. La Beaume remarks that "its extraordinary powers and efficacy in the relief and cure of many of the most dangerous disorders that can afflict humanity, have induced some distinguished members of the faculty, not only to recommend it to their patients, among whom are to be found personages of the first rank in the kingdom, but to have applied it to themselves with the greatest benefit." He likewise states, that "in marking the beneficial effects of the air pump vapour bath, I can truly assert that in cases of gout I have not met with a single instance in which the sufferer has not derived at least considerable advantage. In numerous cases of rheumatism, the operation of the remedy has produced the best effects; and even in the worst cases of sciatica, where only a few trials have been given, the patient has uniformly been more or less relieved." He also observes, that, "in every instance except one, in which I have employed the air pump vapour bath, one of the most important and beneficial results has been obtained—I mean *perspiration*. The importance of obtaining a free and copious perspiration, is often of inestimable consequence; medical practitioners are well aware of this fact, and therefore their attention is always directed to the functions of the skin, as well as to the hepatic and intestinal secretions. In many dangerous diseases, a copious secretion of the skin has saved life; and in most of the serious as well as trivial maladies, the restoration of perspiration alone has produced a cure which no other evacuations could effect. In febrile diseases this apparatus is of the first consequence, and I hope the time is not far distant when it will be introduced into hospital and dispensary practice, as a powerful auxiliary to the ordinary means there employed. It is not liable to the objection urged against the hot and general vapour baths, which have been deemed by a late writer the most valuable discovery of modern times. The shampooing system, which has recently been introduced as a fashionable process, has failed in numerous instances where the air pump vapour bath has completely succeeded. It is by far more efficacious than the Russian transition baths, or the sulphurous fumigation bath, and as pleasant to the feelings as the boasted luxuries of the Turkish baths. Indeed (continues Mr. La Beaume) I am confident, not only from the judgment of scientific and philosophical physicians with whom I have conversed on the subject, but, from what is of more importance than mere opinions of any kind—the total failures that have attended the fair trial of such re-

medies, and the subsequent success that has followed the application of the air pump vapour bath in these very cases. I shall state a few of them on a future occasion, and also point out the superior power of a remedy which I advocate from principle, and the most unquestionable evidence of its utility. But let it never be forgotten, that in any particular case which cannot be decided on general principles, it is unquestionably the safest mode for the afflicted to consult the individual, whose constant practice in this branch of medical science enables him to speak with more precision than a mere theorist, who, however skilled in the ordinary treatment of diseases, is at best but ill qualified to offer a correct opinion on such a subject."

The author also states,—"That each application of the apparatus takes up generally about an hour. The sensations experienced by the patient during the process of fumigation, are of the most agreeable kind. Even in painfully acute disorders, the feelings, while under the operation, are actually *soothing*, exciting gradually and gently an inclination in the patient to sleep."

On the subject of galvanism, the author gives a copy of his letter to John Aldini, Esq. professor of the Imperial University of Wilna, and of the Academies of Turin, Bologna, &c., who had expressed an anxiety to have some account of his professional practice. In it he observes,—"In my practice I have employed galvanism in cases of dyspepsia, biliary complaints, and a long train of afflicting maladies which arise from the diseased functions of those important organs, the stomach, liver, and bowels. In disordered respiration, in habitual asthma, in nervous debility, in palsy, &c., the most salutary and extraordinary effects have been produced. In the painful and delicate diseases of females, particularly of the young and middle aged, remarkable cures have been effected solely by my administering galvanism instead of medicines." As to the mode of directing this simple agent, he has varied the plan, according to the constitution of the patient, and the peculiar character and state of the disease in which it has been applied. No small recommendation of this machine is its portability.

The portion of this work, which merits the greatest share of the public attention, is that which furnishes the details of twenty-five cases of cure, performed by galvanism and the air pump vapour bath, in disorders of the digestive organs, gout, rheumatism, palsy, cutaneous diseases, &c. Both the theory and practice of the machine meet our most hearty approbation. We consider the invention as a most valuable acquisition to medical science, and esteem it a most fortunate event that Mr. La Beaume, whose abilities and assiduity eminently qualify him for the undertaking, should have directed his attention to this important branch of the healing art; and we conceive it to be a duty which the public owe to themselves, duly to appreciate the merits of the information conveyed in this interesting publication.

COOPER AND CO.'s SECOND BOOK OF SURGICAL WONDERS.—SIRS,—As it is of great consequence, that young men who wish to rise in their professional career, and extend their connexion without much aid from science, should have early pointed

out to them the true path to follow; I cannot do better than refer them to the bright example which a late publication of Messrs. Cooper and Co., Surgeons, affords. There is a game, named shuttlecock, in which the feather is bandied from the one player to the other; so young gentlemen will find a lesson of this kind in the above work, that is well worthy their study and imitation, where the puff is directed from the one to the other. But to illustrate the business, and teach the principles of this important branch, so superior to all Esculapian science, I shall refer to the work itself, and make such quotations from it as may impress the justice of my remarks.

The publication is entitled, 'Surgical Essays, by Astley Cooper, F.R.S., Surgeon to St. Thomas's Hospital, and Benjamin Travers, F.R.S. Surgeon to Guy's Hospital.' This volume, which bears on its title page the names of two eminent surgeons, contains little more than a solitary page from the pen of Mr. Travers, and must therefore be considered as given to the public by Mr. Cooper.

The letter press extends over 225 pages, little more than one half of which are sufficient to contain all the remarks and observations of the author. Of the other half, a considerable part consists of cases related by Mr. Cooper himself, but much the greater part is filled up with cases or remarks communicated by one or other of a numerous circle of professional gentlemen, in all parts of the world, with whom it is edifying thus to be informed, that Mr. Cooper carries on a correspondence. This circumstance is here brought into view, in a manner calculated to excite surprise, that the author, whose assiduity in discharging the practical duties of his profession is so well known, could have found sufficient time to conduct a correspondence of such extent, as to include the names of nearly one hundred professional gentlemen now living, some of whose names are many times repeated. Obscure and unknown practitioners have sometimes been suspected of publishing volumes, by way of advertising that there are such persons in existence. They are ever anxious to display their acquaintance with the works of preceding authors, antient and modern, and thus to recommend themselves to notice; but no attempt of this kind was necessary to establish Mr. Cooper's reputation. His object appears to have been far more disinterested. His chief desire seems to be, by the influence of his name, to introduce to the notice of the public those professional gentlemen whom he honours with his correspondence and friendship. Accordingly, we do not find in the present volume the works of more than two or three preceding authors mentioned, and these so recently departed from the stage, as to be still reckoned among the moderns, if not among the author's cotemporaries. This admirable plan saves both to the author and his readers a vast deal of trouble. The former is enabled to lay at once before the public all that is approved and excellent in his *own* enlightened practice, in the same manner as he would teach his pupils in his lectures, the best modes of treating diseases without embarrassing himself, or burdening their memories, and distracting their attention with tedious descriptions of obsolete and exploded systems. But the principal object of these remarks

is, to solicit the attention and admiration of your readers to the singular and characteristic felicity of composition of which Mr. Cooper has so skilfully availed himself in this volume, to introduce the names of most of his very numerous correspondents, with appropriate compliments expressive of his opinion of their talents, politeness, and professional acquirements. Mr. Cooper thus establishes himself in the eye of the profession, as the great *central luminary* of an extensive system of planets, revolving as it were around him, and borrowing light from his superior splendour. It must at the same time be highly gratifying to the gentlemen who enjoy the honour of his acquaintance, to see their sketches of cases and opinions ushered into the world with that fair claim to immortality, which their conjunction with so great a name unequivocally stamps upon them, instead of being consigned to oblivion, like the lucubrations of their less happy brethren, in the hackneyed pages of a periodical publication.

The following extracts exhibit examples of Mr. Cooper's complimentary stile, so highly worthy the attention of the young practitioner:

"To Mr. Daniel, one of Mr. Lucas's dressers, I am obliged for the foregoing particulars; he having reduced the limb in the presence of many of the students." (p. 7.)

"On the 3d of August, the tenth day from the accident, Mr. Astley Cooper in reducing it, (the limb) in the following manner, &c. &c.—JAMES CHAPMAN, *dresser at Guy's Hospital, to whom I am indebted for the foregoing statement.*" (p. 9.)

"The only difficulty we had to reconcile this to ourselves, was the belief, in our own minds, that no author had noticed this accident to have taken place without an alteration in the length of the limb, except it might be Mr. Astley Cooper in his new publication, which we neither of us had yet seen,"—&c. &c.

"We proposed meeting again as soon as we conveniently could, by which time we might consult Mr. Cooper's book,"—&c. &c.

"Upon referring to the essays which we had now before us, we had the case delineated and described, and as it was exhibited in a plate, we had only to imitate, in order to accomplish the reduction of the bone, &c. &c. *John Rogers.*"

Remark by Mr. A. Cooper.

"The relation of the foregoing case, from the kind manner in which Mr. Rogers has expressed himself, may savour a little of vanity *(not in the least);* but I shall readily suffer this imputation, as my greatest gratification will ever be to find, that *my* HUMBLE endeavours may, in the slightest degree, have conduced to the advantage of *my* professional brethren, or to the benefit of those who may be placed under their care,"—&c. &c. (p. 13.)

The candid reader will readily allow that Mr. Cooper's gratification would not have been complete, without seeing in print, the case, of which the foregoing extracts form a part, in the exact words of Mr. Rogers who relates it.

In speaking of a case of dislocation of the hip, sent to the Medico-Chirurgical Society by Mr. Tripe, at Plymouth, Mr. Cooper makes the following observations:—

"It is really gratifying to observe the difference of knowledge in the profession at the present period, when compared with that of fifty years ago. What should we think of a surgeon in the metropolis, in the present day, with all his opportunities of seeing disease in the large hospitals of this town, who doubted the existence of a dislocation of the thigh,* when we find our provincial surgeons immediately detect the nature of these injuries, and directly succeed in their attempts to reduce them." (p. 19.)

"My friend, Mr. Smith, an excellent surgeon at Bristol, had a similar case under his care,"—&c. &c. (p. 30.)

"It was with pleasure I read the accounts of the dissection of several cases of fracture of the cervix femoris, by my friend Mr. Collis, (who is a man excellently informed in his profession.)" &c. &c. (p. 42.)

"My friend, Mr. Roux, sent me from Paris one of these cases." &c. &c.

"Mr. Travers shewed me a specimen of this accident," &c. &c.

"Mr. Oldknow, surgeon, at Nottingham, sent for my inspection two excellent specimens of this fracture,"—&c. &c. (p. 43.)

"Mr. Travers has the most valuable specimen of this state of the bone, which I have had an opportunity of seeing, and of which he has had the kindness to send me the following account:—"&c. &c. (p. 47.)

The occasional use of the plural pronoun WE, becomes Mr. Cooper extremely well, as in the following example from a note:—

"Although *we* are ready to acknowledge the high merit of the contrivances of Dessaul and Boyer for fractures of the thigh, yet upon the whole, we give a preference both to this instrument, and to the position which we have just described, and which we have been in the habit of adopting in these cases." (p. 50.)

Is it not probable that the printer had taken the liberty of inserting the WE in this instance, without the author's sanction, having exhausted his stock of capital I's?

"My neighbour Mr. Hutchinson, who has seen a great deal of surgery,"—&c. &c. (p. 59.)

"With very great attention this (the motion of the patella in dislocation upwards) becomes perfect: for it so happened in a case which I saw with Mr. Burrows, in Bishopsgate-street. Mr. B. paid great attention to the case, and the patient recovered,"—&c. &c. (p. 60.)

"*My* friends, Mr. Caddell and Mr. Richards, surgeons, in Barbadoes,"—&c. &c. (p. 63.)

"The following case, for which *I* am indebted to *my* friend Dr. Walshman, who has ever been a man of close observation in his profession, and always practised it with *attention, judgment,* and with *honour!!*" (p. 64.)

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* Mr. Cooper had previously stated, on the authority of Mr. Cline, that Mr. Sharpe, formerly a surgeon to Guy's Hospital, did not believe that a dislocation of the hip ever occurred.

"Dr. Walshman's treatment of this case was highly judicious,"—&c. &c. (p. 65.)

"That excellent practical surgeon Mr. Hey, of Leeds, whose death is to be severely deplored in the district in which he practised, and lamented by those in the profession who have its improvement at heart, was the first who clearly described the symptoms and cause of these accidents, and suggested a mode of treatment, which is ingenious, scientific, and generally successful." (p. 66.)

"My most able and *excellent* friend, Mr. Cline, sen. visited him," &c. (p. 71.)

"Yet I once saw in a patient of *my kind* friend, Mr. Chopart, at Paris," &c. (p. 79.)

"My friend, and late apprentice, Mr. Tyrrel, who was so kind as to give me the facts," &c. (p. 101.)

"Mr. Battley, who then practised as a surgeon in St. Paul's church-yard, and is now a chemist and druggist in Fore-street, of the *first* respectability and character," &c. (p. 113.)

"All I had to do was to praise the judgment of Mr. Richards, of Seal, in Kent, which had led to the preservation of the limb, and to direct the continuance of the means which had been employed for that purpose," &c. (p. 119.)

"For the following details I am indebted to Mr. Rowley, apprentice to Mr. Chandler, surgeon to St. Thomas's Hospital." (p. 116.)

"The following accident I was requested to visit by Mr. Clark, surgeon, in Great Turn Stile, Lincoln's Inn Fields; and Mr. Clark has had the kindness to send me the following particulars." (p. 118.)

"To Mr. Somerville, of the Stafford Infirmary, I am indebted for the following letter."

"I had an opportunity of witnessing the happy result of Mr. Scarr's (of Bishop Stortford) skill and attention." (p. 123.)

"For the following most interesting case, I am indebted to a very excellent surgeon and *ingenious man*, Mr. Abbot, at Needham Market, Suffolk. It admirably shews what may be accomplished in these cases, by extraordinary skill and attention." (p. 124.)

"I beg Mr. Hammick to accept my thanks for his most excellent letter." (p. 136.)

"Mr. Charles Averill, dresser to Mr. Forster, surgeon of Guy's Hospital, has had the kindness to send me the following particulars of a case, the progress of which I often witnessed with pleasure." (p. 146.)

"For the following letter I am indebted to Dr. Kerr, of Northampton, who, at the age of more than eighty, still continues to practise his profession with all the ardour of youth, and with a strength of mind, which has been seldom surpassed." (p. 148.)

"To Dr. Ramsay, of Amersham, I am obliged for the following interesting communication." (p. 149.)

"For the following most interesting case, I am indebted to Mr. Hicks, of Baldock." (p. 155.)

"My friend and late dresser, Mr. Cooper, of Brentford, an

ingenious surgeon and *excellent* man, sent me the following valuable communication." (p. 158.)

"The following I received from my friend, Dr. Lynn."(p. 164.)

"My friend, Mr. Hammick, has had the kindness to send me a specimen of this kind, which he was obliged to amputate." (p. 173.)

"The following interesting cases were under the care of Mr. Henry Cline; and for the particulars I am indebted to his apprentice, Mr. South." (p. 183.)

"I conversed with Mr. Henry Cline on the subject of these accidents, and Mr. Green, who saw the preceding cases, has sent me the following letter respecting them." (p. 191.)

"The case in Guy's Hospital, my apprentice, Mr. Babington, informs me, happened by the fall of a horse," &c. (p. 194.)

"The operation of making a new nose, which has been successfully performed by my friends, Mr. Carpue and Mr. Hutchinson, in London, as well as the operation of making a new under-lip from the skin beneath the chin, which was performed by my friend, Mr. Lynn, Surgeon of the Westminster Hospital, and is so highly creditable to him, &c." (p. 206.)

"I attended first with Mr. Tipple, surgeon, at Mitcham; and when the patient removed to London, with Mr. Hunter, of Tower Street, and his son, a very excellently well-informed and amiable man, who has had the kindness to furnish me with the following particulars," &c. (p. 207.)

"For the former of these I am indebted to my friend, Dr. Roots, of Kingston, who wrote me the following letter respecting the man, and who, before he operated, had the kindness to send the patient for my inspection." (p. 217.)

"Notwithstanding she had *promptly the most able* medical assistance *in* Dr. Baillie, she fell a victim to this inflammation."

The above quotations will shew the importance and excellence of the *Cooperian System* of medical ethics. In strongly fulfilling the leading maxim of the admirable creed—of doing to others as we wish to be done by, and shewing what a good christian Mr. Cooper is, it is no less a polite and courtly conduct, to possess the pleasure of pleasing, or attempting to be all *things to all men.* Its effects conspicuously shine in the rank and consequence the author has attained, who has left, in his professional career, his less knowing cotemporaries far behind him.

I am, Sirs,

Spring Gardens, Your constant Reader,

April 16th, 1820. TINSEL PRETTYMAN.

THE MEADOW SAFFRON.—Dr. Williams, of Ipswich, in a late communication, observes, that in the course of his inquiries into the properties of the meadow saffron, about two years since, when he published his observations on certain specific remedies for the gout, he ascertained that its medicinal powers are not confined to the root, but that they exist in the seed of the plant, the salutary qualities of which, in subduing painful diseases, *unconnected with gout or inflammation, especially of the viscera,* he states, are scarcely to be imagined by those who have witnessed the capricious, and often

violent, and even fatal effects of a concentrated infusion or tincture of the root.

With regard to the most eligible method of administering the seeds, he has declined to give any account, in consequence of his intention of writing a paper for publication upon this subject at no distant period, the materials of which, he says, have been some time prepared, but for want of leisure are not properly arranged for publication. In that work he promises to comprise reports of several inveterate cases of chronic rheumatism, which resisted every method of treatment usually tried in such diseases, but in which different preparations of seeds of the meadow saffron were administered with a degree of early relief and permanent cure, not attainable, he believes, by any other medicine. We hope the work the Doctor has announced, will be more creditable to him than his attack on Dr. Wilson, which is unscientific, and exhibits numerous proofs of a narrow mind.

EPILEPSY.—The actual cautery to the front of the head, formerly used in the treatment of epilepsy and other diseases of the brain, has long fallen into discredit, in consequence of the unfortunate results from it in several cases published by De Haen and Pouteau. This discredit has been considerably diminished by M. Percy, in his *Pyrotechnie Chirurgicale;* and M. Gondret has in great measure re-established, by some judicious observations, the use of an operation, the unfortunate consequences of which should undoubtedly be attributed to some impropriety in the mode of practising it, to some error in the appreciation of the circumstances where it is indicated, or to neglect of the ready means of preventing the inconveniences which may sometimes result from it. Lately M. Pariset has profited by his situation in one of the hospitals, which presents the most frequent favourable occasions for putting it to the test, to ascertain the utility of this remedy. Professor Halle, however, proposes a comparison between this operation and that which he has employed for five-and-twenty years in the same malady, which is similar to that employed by Pott, in disease of the spine. It consists in the application either of two pieces of moxa, or of the actual cautery, on each side of the spinous processes of the cervical vertebræ, one of them near the occiput, the other near the commencement of the dorsal vertebræ. It was on the following occasion he was led to adopt the use of this method.

A young man, who besides frequent attacks of epilepsy, was affected with a lethargic affection, which continued to increase, and seemed to indicate an effusion of serum within the head. He was of a leucophlegmatic, lax, indolent, and inactive constitution. The professor ordered two issues as above directed, with a view of relieving the head. The lethargy was soon removed, and the epileptic attacks did not recur. This success led him to employ the same means in other cases of epilepsy, not complicated with lethargy; and he asserts that he has almost constantly obtained sufficient success, to induce him to adopt this mode of treatment in preference to any other. The professor expresses a wish that an experimental comparison should be made between this method and the application

of cautery to the nape of the neck, and that it should also be compared with the other reputed anti-epileptic remedies; for he has also derived advantage from the internal use of the nitrate of silver, as noticed in a former number. It appears to him, that supposing the cautery to the front of the head has sometimes been attended with the inconveniences which have been attributed to it, these need not be feared in the method he proposes, after having himself put it to the test of experience. The accidents from the internal use of the nitrate of silver are much more to be feared; for this medicine often injures the mucous surface, producing ulcers in the fauces, and still more dangerous ones in the mucous membrane of the stomach, as he and several of his colleagues have had occasion to observe. These accidents, he states, may be avoided, but much attention and constant watching are requisite for this purpose; and the dangers are often such, as to render a continuance of the remedy very improper. However, even in the use of the *cervical cauterization*, as he proposes, he has witnessed a violent irritation extending to the occipital muscles, so that it became impossible for the measure to be borne more than four or five months. Three months had indeed, in this case, elapsed without any attack of the epilepsy, which had occurred nearly every eighth day before the remedy was employed. On allowing the issues to heal, the paroxysms frequently returned; but they at length gave way to the nitrate of silver, cautiously administered.

LOCK-JAW.—From Dr. Medici, first physician to the principal hospital at Bologna, we have received a case of lock-jaw from a laceration of the external part of the left hand, which was successfully treated by Dr. Bacialli. The patient (a man) was about twenty-five years of age, of a robust habit, and sound constitution; the wound was inflicted by a pig, and in a few days healed kindly. A few days afterwards lock-jaw came on. Opium, in large doses, having failed to afford any relief, Dr. Bacialli, after copious bleeding, ordered two drachms of laurel water to be conveyed into the stomach every day, the body to be placed three times a day in a tepid bath, and the wounded hand to be frequently immersed in olive oil. By perseverance in the use of these remedies the patient was restored to perfect health.

The laurel water, which is now in general use in Italy, as a sedative, is made in the following manner:—take a pound of the fresh leaves of the lauro-cerasus, (gathered in the beginning of the summer, the period at which they are the most succulent, and when the juice is most active) cut them in pieces, and put them in a glass retort with six ounces of water; distil in a water bath, and draw off three ounces. The water should be kept in a glass vessel, well closed, and excluded from the light. The ordinary dose is from four to six drops, diluted with two ounces of distilled water. The essential part of the laurel leaves, in which its sedative properties reside, does not differ in its chemical properties, or its effects on the constitution, to the prussic acid, one drop of which is equal to six drops of the laurel water.

Dr. Cavallini, of Fulignano, has lately published the following

case of this formidable disease, which was successfully treated by anodyne remedies.

Lewis Fonzi, fifty years of age, of a vigorous temperament and athletic habit, wounded himself, with a sharp instrument, in the second phalanx of the third finger of the left hand. The wound was not deep, was not attended with any remarkable symptom, and healed very well in the course of the morbid affection about to be described.

After a few days the patient became affected with nausea, difficulty of respiration, and a tension of the chest. A free blood-letting gave him decisive relief. On the evening of the third day from the bleeding, he was suddenly seized with violent pain in the region of the loins, principally on the left side, which on the next day became extended over the whole trunk, then to the neck, first producing locked jaw, attended with sense of great debility. A physician, who was present at the onset of the disease, ordered immediately infusion of canella, opiates, frictions, with camphorated alkohol, and the warm bath. The rigidity of the muscles increased under this treatment; the debility increased, and on the third day, with the exception of the arms, the whole body became inflexible. The patient suffered very acute pain in the loins, extending to the pit of the stomach; and the skin was covered by a copious sweat. Dr. d'Ascoli and myself were now consulted. We agreed in opinion, respecting the impropriety of stimulating treatment, and that sedative measures should be employed, which were immediately resorted to. This was the fourth day of the disease, when the pains were so violent, and the spasm so intense in degree, that death appeared to be inevitable.

Thirty leeches were first applied to the chest, which produced such mitigation, that the patient was able to drink a little water. A decoction of fox-glove, with the addition of some laurel water, were now administered, by which the relief obtained was confirmed. Encouraged with the favourable results of the contra-stimulant method, I determined to repeat the application of leeches, in great numbers, first to the abdomen, and then along the vertebral column. One hundred and fifty were thus employed within a few days, and the blood permitted to flow freely from the punctures. A glyster, composed of decoction of mallows, with half a drachm of tartar emetic, was injected twice a day; and tartar emetic was administered freely by the mouth. Mercurial frictions were made on the limbs, and the diet restrained to a little panada, with iced water, as drink. On the fifteenth day of the disease (the eleventh after the use of the sedative treatment) the diminution of the symptoms was very considerable, and the patient was evidently proceeding towards health. But the rigor of the diet being diminished, a little spasm returned, which was removed by persisting in the antiphlogistic measures and cold aspersion. On the 25th day, the symptoms above described had disappeared, and the secretions and excretions in general had returned to the natural state. There remained, however, some disorder of the stomach, accompanied by developement of gas, and constipation of the bowels. Castor oil, manna,

ammoniated tartrate of potass, cold fomentations, and purgative glysters, produced abundant evacuations, and completed the cure. Although the muscles generally had acquired their natural softness and flexibility, the skin was constricted; but this soon disappeared: the muscles of the lower jaw were the last that remained contracted; but this finally recovered its natural power of motion. On the fortieth day the patient left his bed, and began to assume his ordinary regimen.

The following cases of lock-jaw successfully treated by sedative remedies, by Professor Borda, of Pavia, were lately published by Dr. G. L. Leonardi:

A labouring peasant boy, fourteen years of age, of a weak constitution and ill developed habit of body, after having been alternately exposed to heat and cold, suddenly became affected with lock-jaw, and afterwards with that universal rigidity of the muscles which nosologists have called tetanus. He was brought by his parents to the medical ward, superintended by Professor Borda. He was soon afterwards seen by the Professor, who, supposing the disease to depend on inflammatory affection of the spinal marrow, directed forty leaches to be applied along the vertebral column, a little blood to be taken from the arm, drastic glysters to be injected, and a few grains of tartar emetic to be given in the course of the day, dissolved in a small quantity of water.

Notwithstanding these powerful measures, the disease continued its course; so that on the fifth day the lock-jaw was almost complete, the spasms very severe, the pulse was extremely small, and the face had the pallidness of death.

Professor Borda then began to doubt whether he had not exceeded due bounds in the use of the remedies he employed, or whether the disease might not depend on a state of constitution different from that which he had suspected. He therefore suspended the use of sedatives, and prescribed a stimulating medicine, which was administered with great difficulty, from the jaws being almost totally closed. He ordered a glyster composed of forty drops of the liquid laudanum of Sydenham in an infusion of chamomile flowers, to be injected every three hours. Matters became still worse under this treatment. The convulsive affections became very frequent, the locked jaw complete, the tension of the abdominal muscles was so great that they felt like plates of metal, and the spasms increased: the pulse was moderately strong. These results removed all doubts respecting the proper mode of treatment. The use of the stimulants was discontinued. Emollient glysters were then administered,—the tepid bath was used for several hours in continuation,—three, and afterwards six, drachms of mercurial ointment were daily rubbed on the skin,—from six to eight grains of tartar emetic were administered by the mouth daily,—and glysters were injected, composed of infusion of chamomile, with one drachm of tartar emetic. By these medicines, and the use of blood-letting, the symptoms soon abated, and the patient in a short time recovered his usual state of health.

Another case of lock-jaw was cured in the same way by similar

means. In this case the most powerful stimulants had been employed in the first stage of the disease, under the direction of Dr. Trolli; but as they were evidently injurious, mercurial frictions, baths, bleeding, drastic clysters, tartar emetic, &c. were afterwards resorted to. The patient rapidly recovered his health so perfectly, as to be soon able to walk from Pavia to Genoa, and to return thence after a short repose.

STATE OF MEDICINE IN GREAT BRITAIN.—We have received a very sensible pamphlet on the present state of the practice of physic and surgery in this country, entitled "*A Series of Letters to the President of the Associated Apothecaries and Surgeon-Apothecaries of England and Wales.*" The opinions of the writer, respecting the proper education of a medical practitioner, are so similar to those we published about ten years ago, in a pamphlet edited by Jeremiah Jinkens, that we suspect the partially educated physicians (whose incompetency to practise it so fully exposes,) connected with certain monthly Reviewers, will give us the credit of being the authors. For the assertion, that no physician should be allowed to practise the healing art who is unacquainted with surgery, chemistry, and pharmacy, we were declared to be out of the pale of the *regular* profession, and to be actuated by some unworthy motive. Our doctrines were pronounced so preposterous, and to militate so much against the *true* interest of the profession at large, and that of the English universities in particular, that poor Birkbeck, Henderson, and Bateman, urged the College of Physicians to prosecute us for having broached them. "If," said they, "they are not crushed in the bud," they will destroy the confidence of the public in the abilities of *regular* physicians; and, from their present elevated situation, they would be transferred to the very bottom of the class of quacks!! We had been guilty of so great an inconsistency as to contend that the practice of medicine was a most serious undertaking, and that no medical man could do his patient justice, who was not able to bring to his aid a knowledge of surgery and chemistry, as well as that of "physic proper." The necessity of a set of inferior, or superficially educated practitioners, so much inculcated by the College, to take the management of simple cases of disease, we condemned, because the person with a smattering knowledge of medicine, could not be competent to distinguish a simple case from a complex one; and such practitioners being uniformly the most confident and conceited, were not likely to have recourse to the aid of a properly educated physician; that in fact they were more likely to convert a simple case into a complex one, and a complex one into an incurable one. Now the fact is, it is the *situation* of the patient, with respect to circumstances, or rank in life, which distinguishes the patient of the physician from that of an apothecary; for if the patient be poor, a certain class of physicians will not interfere with the apothecary, let his disease be ever so complex or obscure. We assert, without the fear of contradiction from any liberal practitioner, that the surgeon-apothecaries of the present time are better qualified to undertake the management of diseases of any class, than physicians who were not educated in the schools of surgery, pharmacy, and che-

mistry. Now the art of medicine being founded chiefly upon experiment and observation, and the rules of exercising it always modified by circumstances of nice discrimination, (which cannot be sufficiently known, except by one long conversant with diseases as they actually occur,) no other difference between practitioners should be made, than that of the *experienced* and the *inexperienced*, the former of whom should alone be entitled to an extra remuneration for his advice or attendance; and *all* should be educated in the auxiliary branches of medicine, and undergo the strictest examination, as to his competency to exercise the art. According to the present state of the profession, the young physician, on commencing practice, considers himself entitled to a fee, although he absolutely cannot recognise the diseases at the bed-side of his patients, of which he has only a kind of rote knowledge; whilst the apothecary, although in point of medical knowledge greatly his superior, has no other source of remuneration than the profit arising from the medicine he administers: and this system, in the opinion of the College of physicians, is a very rational one!! It has been said, we think by a *Doctor* Sherman, that the remuneration of a medical man cannot be left to the discretion of the public;—now long experience has fully satisfied us, that if medical men were to discharge their duty to the public conscientiously, the public would reward them liberally. The following letter, on the subject of medical education, we have selected from the pamphlet we noticed in commencing this article, as most worthy of serious perusal:—

"Sir,—The division of the healing art into separate departments, and the allotment of these to practitioners of different denominations, might conduce to its improvement, by directing the attention to fewer objects of research, if such a division were founded in nature. It might also facilitate labour, were these distinctions as applicable to the practice of physic and surgery as to the mechanic arts.

"On this ground, indeed, the separation of medicine from surgery has been defended by high professional authority. 'The distinction between the provinces of physic and surgery,' it has been observed, by Dr. Percival, 'should be steadily maintained. This distinction is sanctioned both by reason and experience; for the division of skill and labour is no less advantageous in the liberal, than in the mechanic arts.'

"But it will appear, on a strict enquiry, that the distinction adverted to is inadmissible. The separation of medicine from surgery cannot be maintained. The parts into which the healing art has been divided, are intimately connected with, and *so* illustrate each other, that it is impossible to understand some parts while ignorant of the rest. When, therefore, it is considered upon what grounds this division has been adopted, and to what *practical* extent it is *now* maintained; a question may arise as to the benefits which society, and the healing art itself, derive from the distinctions attempted to be imposed by the line of demarcation that has, thus ostensibly, been drawn. 'These observations,' Professor Carlisle remarks, 'necessarily comprise both the offices of the surgeon and the physi-

cian, because I could not separate the consideration of local distempers from constitutional influences: nor does it seem beneficial to the sick, that such distinctions should be practically enforced.'

"From the pen of another eminently enlightened professor of the healing art we have a similar opinion. 'No part of the animal body,' Mr. Abernethy observes, 'can in general be very considerably disordered, without occasioning a correspondent derangement in other parts of the system. An evil seems to me to have arisen from the artificial division of the healing art into the medical and surgical departments. This division has caused the attention of the physician and the surgeon to be too exclusively directed to those diseases, which custom has *arbitrarily* allotted to their care.'

"It has however been suggested, that *as* in the construction of machinery the artists acquire skill and dexterity by each having a particular province assigned to himself; *so*, in preserving the springs of life in health and vigour, a similar division of labour must be equally beneficial. But no analogy here exists. In the mechanic arts the perfection of each part of a machine depends upon its own particular construction: but although the separate parts may be formed independently of each other by artists who are unacquainted with the other divisions of the work, yet must a *single* mind of a more enlarged comprehension regulate the whole. Independently, therefore, of the essential difference which obtains between the *living* system and a system of mere human machinery, the analogy adverted to entirely fails. For in the practice of the healing art the physician bears no relation to the workmen employed in the fabrication of a machine. He is not employed to *construct*. His exertions are directed only to preservation and repair. To the preservation of a system, the several parts of which are associated during life by an inseparable bond of union. If the similitude which has been traced between the offices of the physician and the labours of the mechanic can be brought to apply, it must be by comparing the physician with the master builder in mechanics, and not with the separate artists he employs. He must comprehend the whole scope of the finished machine, in order to regulate its movements, and to understand its parts in detail.

"The art of healing has for its object the wonderfully intricate structure and diversified functions of the *living* body, in which, I may repeat, no part can be thoroughly understood independently of the rest. The vital system, with its multifarious influences and affections, admits no subdivision in the consideration of its movements. It presents a system of organization *sui generis*.

"Formed with an excellency beyond our highest admiration, in a manner beyond our keenest scrutiny, the living body possesses agencies and actions peculiar to its vital nature, with which the inanimate creation affords no just comparison. The animal fabric is constructed of many parts, which possess the faculty of performing various functions: and it is preserved in vigour, or deranged both in structure and in function, by influences that are excited through means, to us, wholly inexplicable.

The system of life is like a chain, the links of which are connected

by universal sympathy. No link is materially affected without influencing the other. An external irritation often occasions internal derangement: and peculiar states of internal organs exert a powerful agency over external disorders. The most trifling affection of a mere point on the surface of the body, will occasion universal disease, and death; as, for instance, in lock-jaw, when produced by the slightest imaginable puncture, or by mere abrasion of the skin. Similar effects will also result from internal irritations; as in the example of worms in the intestines exciting convulsions and death. Sometimes we perceive a cause of disease acting directly upon an organ essential to life, when the most striking effects appear in the more obvious derangement of a distant part. 'Hippocrates, we are told, formed many of his notions, and much of his practice in the cure of *internal* diseases, from what he observed in those seated *externally*. The analogy of external and internal diseases is obvious. The knowledge and cure of external affections is a master key to the study and practice of medicine.' 'Without anatomy there can be no true physiology: and pathology can be founded only on the latter.'

"To divide therefore the healing art into shares, on the consideration, that diseases are either general or local, external or internal, while we view the ever-varying influence of universal sympathy and association in the phenomena of life, is, surely, an unnatural distinction in relation both to principle and practice.

"The distinction of internal and external diseases has no more foundation in nature, than that between diseases of the right and left side of the body. The distinction between local and general diseases cannot be maintained, since organs the most distant are sympathetically influenced, and constantly drawn into consentaneous derangement.

"It would be useless on this occasion to trace to its origin the precise period when the separation of medicine from surgery took place, or to search for the motives of its adoption. For no satisfactory conclusion could be drawn from rules however ancient, or however salutary they might once have been, should their continuance be found inapplicable to the present state of science. 'The various histories of physic agree, that the ancient physicans, from Æsculapius and Hippocrates among the Greeks, to Celsus and Galen among the Romans, practised the different branches of medicine.'—'The art of surgery was not separated from medicine till in the times of ignorance and barbarism.'

"Not only did the Fathers of Physic practise the different branches of the healing art, but in modern times the London College of physicians deemed it necessary for the physician to understand surgery, 'forasmuch as the science of physic doth comprehend, include, and contain the knowledge of surgery, as a special member and part of the same.' The same Royal College considered pharmacy likewise an essential link in the chain of practice. Their members frequently proposed in publications, the propriety of dispensing their own prescriptions; a practice which pretty generally obtains among the surgeons of Edinburgh, and which was recom-

mended by Dr. Gregory to the physicians of that city.* The Royal College of Surgeons of London grant their diploma to those who practise pharmacy: and although many of the London surgeons do not dispense their own medicines, yet do they practise physic as well as surgery; and often to a much greater extent.

"Medicine and surgery are, indeed, inseparable. This must appear obvious whenever the subject is examined on its own merits. 'Surgery must borrow certain views from general medicine, in the same way that medicine is often obliged to have recourse to surgical assistance.'—'They are one and indivisible.'—'The two sciences are interlocked at all points.'—'Physic and surgery are only parts of a grand whole; one cannot be known without the other.'—'If a line is to be drawn between medicine and surgery, the latter must be confined to *mere* manual operation. The practice of medicine immediately begins when the dressings are applied.'

"Pharmacy might be made a distinct branch of the profession of physic, if confined to the practice of compounding medicines. The separation of pharmacy however may, in certain points of view, be considered injurious. No physician should be ignorant of pharmacy, and it can only be understood by practice. 'It is not by the perusal of books that we can learn pharmacy: but by witnessing the various processes of this art, by performing them ourselves, and by rendering ourselves familiar with the subjects of them, and the instruments by which they are effected.' The joining pharmacy to the other branches of practice is particularly convenient to the public. It affords moreover a satisfactory assurance that, as a branch of the healing art, it is in proper hands when conducted under the immediate direction of the person who prescribes.

"There are some who consider the division of the healing art into separate departments, to have a sufficient foundation in the advantage which it presents of maintaining a regular scale in the medical ranks of society. They regard it as it affects the interest of the practitioners, without any reference to the advancement of their art.

"It is stated by the advocates for separation, on this principle, that a collegiate education, when supported by interest and affluence, gives the graduate in physic an elevation in rank, to which the profoundest knowledge and most enlightened experience of an uncharted practitioner can advance no claim. This may be true: but as it respects the improvement of science, and the good of mankind,

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* "'Hippocrates not only wrote more fully than any of his predecessors on surgery and anatomy, but was a bold and skilful operator himself; and the medicines he prescribed, there is every reason to believe, he compounded with his own hands.'

"'It is certain,' says Coringius, 'that the ancient physicians prepared all their medicines with their own hands; that they attended to surgery, healed wounds, and performed every operation the medical art requires.'

"'In Great Britain, as in all other countries, the first physicians were pharmaceutists, and compounded their own medicines.'

the argument entirely fails. 'There is so close a connection between all the branches of medical science, that, whatever artificial distinctions may be made, medicine and surgery must always be understood by one and the same person.' The living body must be considered as a whole in relation to its functions, healthy or diseased. It possesses that perfect unity in itself which no precedence of rank in society, no college regulation, can ever disturb without doing an injury to the best interests of science, whatever artificial distinctions may be voluntarily practised or politically enforced.

"The importance of a knowledge of morbid anatomy toward the establishment of accurate diagnosis, in what has been denominated general disease, renders dissection equally necessary in medical as in surgical tuition. Hence the rudiments of operative surgery are ingrafted, as it were, on professional education, as the necessary consequence of medical research. The knowledge of anatomy, thus indispensable to the understanding of medicine, implies a certain proficiency in the art of dissection: and from the frequent practice of dissecting, operative surgery would follow as a matter of course, were it an object to cultivate the healing art on the unity of principle to which nature and reason so distinctly point.

"Thus is the union of medicine and surgery a consequence of the thorough prosecution of either the one or the other; without adverting to the arguments in proof of their natural connection deduced from the unity of the system of living organization. 'So intimately is the province of the physician connected with that of the surgeon, that it is difficult to say where the one begins, or the other ends. A man cannot be a good physician without a *practical* knowledge of surgery, nor can he be a good surgeon, who is not acquainted with the laws of the animal œconomy, and general principles of the medical art.'

"I need not inform you, Sir, that medicine and surgery are practised by one and the same person in many large towns, and, very generally, in the navy and army. Nor need I to expatiate upon the well-known merits of those who, in country practice, or in the public service, have so eminently contributed to benefit mankind and improve the healing art.

"In the metropolis is chiefly set up those nominal distinctions, which regard medicine and surgery as separate departments of practice. But, in truth, this separation even in London is more specious than real; as will be made obvious, when we consider attentively the extent to which such separation is in effect maintained. 'The distinction between the two branches, it has been remarked by an acute and accurate observer, cannot be drawn, even in the largest cities. To be convinced of this, let any one sit down by the side of Abernethy and Cooper for a day, and he will see these illustrious surgeons lopping off nine diseases with the quicksilver pill and cascarilla, for every one which they remove by the knife'—'he will see patients of all ranks afflicted with general disease resort to surgeons for medical advice. Hence it is evident, that the sense of mankind acknowledges not the artificial divisions which have been made in

the profession.' They are, in fact, erroneously founded, and are in direct opposition to the nature of things: and as such, they are almost entirely disregarded by the well-educated surgeon. 'Upon the whole, it appears that no person possesses real knowledge in any part of medicine, beyond what is acquired by observation and sufficient experience; nor can the healing art be studied thoroughly, but upon the plan of Hippocrates, in a complete union of all its branches. It may be compared to a circle, which will not admit of any division of its parts, without injury: and accordingly Celsus asserted, that all the parts of medicine are so connected, that no one part can be separated from the whole.'

"The practice of the healing art, in London more especially, is divided into three distinct departments. In the country districts, in many large towns, in the navy and army very commonly, these departments are united in one and the same person. The physician being seldom consulted, in his private practice, by the middle classes and the poor, holds a station above comparison with the general practitioner. But the general practitioner, and the surgeon who does not practise pharmacy or medicine by the authority of a diploma, are more nearly allied. They are examined as to their fitness by the same authorities, and receive their diploma from the same College. So far they are nearly identified. They sometimes set out with the same scheme of preliminary education, and pursue the same course of ulterior study. A plan of preliminary study is, indeed, prescribed by the direction of the Royal College of Surgeons as the proper initiation for the candidate, with which all are equally bound to comply. The candidate for the practice of surgery *alone* gives in general a more exclusive attention to the operative department. This, of course, requires constant practice; and the operative department of surgery will, consequently, be best conducted by professors from the hospital ranks. The exclusive attention, however, given to operative surgery, is sometimes prejudicial to the medical department of the art, which is liable from thence to become neglected. This is a consideration of the greatest importance; for the benefit mankind derives from the exercise of surgery, proceeds perhaps more frequently from comprehensive and enlightened views of the general laws of the animal œconomy, than from the most dextrous performance of formidable operations: the necessity for which a scientific practitioner will sometimes be able to prevent. If in their initiation and subsequent examinations the surgeon and general practitioner possess the resemblance which is marked above, in their practice a considerable difference obtains. The surgeon does not dispense his own medicines, but receives a physician's fee for his advice; and if he practise medicine, or in other words, advise in cases of general disease, he does so without having undergone the medical examination which the laws require.

"The uniting pharmacy to the offices of the surgeon and physician constitutes the general practitioner, and creates the difference between him and them. Pharmacy is a branch of physic which it is necessary to understand. The general practitioner is therefore obliged to pass an examination in pharmacy. He is likewise

examined in medicine and in surgery. From the physicians and surgeons of the Colleges he receives his professional education, and the testimonials of his fitness to practise. In this relation he stands with respect to the physician and surgeon; and for the rest, I should be gratified in detailing to you, from a minute and extensive inquiry, the genuine character of his personal experience, which I am persuaded would do full honour to the practice of the healing art.

"I beg, sir, in conclusion to express my sincere good wishes for the success of your zealous exertions. By the act you have obtained from the legislature, you have already done the most important service both to the public and to the fraternity of general practitioners. You have laid a firm and excellent foundation. A little time, with an enlightened and persevering energy, will complete the superstructure, and establish the character of the general practitioner as a legal depositary of medical and surgical science."

BLOOD LETTING.—To Dr. Dods, an eminent physician of Worcester, we are much indebted for a prospectus or introduction to a *practical* dissertation on the use and abuse of blood-letting in fevers, inflammations, and all diseases connected with them. The abstraction of blood is one of the most powerful means of reducing the violence of inflammatory affections, and checking the progress of those of inflammatory excitement. With the extent to which it may be safely carried in cases of inflammatory attacks of the brain, lungs, stomach, or bowels, and its effects in many diseases, apparently, of debility, few practitioners are well acquainted. On the judicious employment of no remedy does the life of a patient more frequently depend, than that of blood-letting. In cases of inflammation of the lungs and brain, we often find a patient to sink rapidly after a copious abstraction of blood, while in another, apparently similarly affected, the inflammatory symptoms will considerably abate, and the muscular system acquire strength after a loss of blood, to the same extent. These different effects may be generally traced to the habits of the patients, and particularly to the condition of the brain and nervous system. When the brain and nervous system have not been impaired, but retain their natural energy, the patient will bear a repetition of copious bleeding, without experiencing any debilitating effects; and in such patients, even when afflicted with a disease of debility, a spontaneous hæmorrhage or artificial bleeding frequently proves beneficial, probably by rousing the process of sanguification and other powers of the system. By bringing into action the absorbent system, many diseases may be cured by it, the leading symptoms of which contraindicated the use of a remedy of a debilitating nature. When active inflammation, or an inflammatory state of constitution, exists, bleeding, either local or general, is more or less an indispensable remedy. In a late Number we have stated, that inflammation depends more on increased excitement of nerves than the state of the blood or blood-vessels; that it commences in the nerves, and that the distension of blood-vessels is the consequence of the nervous excitement. As the distension of blood-vessels greatly tends to keep up the morbid

excitement of the nervous system, it should be reduced either by local or general bleeding, according to the state of the constitution; and when this is effected, the judicious practitioner will attempt to quiet the nerves of the part, either by local application, or by producing a determination of nervous fluid to another part by stimulants, or the employment of both. In fevers, and in all acute diseases, Dr. Dods observes, "The judicious practitioner will constantly keep in view the preservation of all the organs from the dangers immediate and remote of high inflammation: blood-letting checks deranged movement, and sometimes lowers and sometimes raises sensibility to impression; in consequence of which, other remedies may produce those motions, which are similar to, or which are the identical movements of health. In these respects, it is useful in the *beginning* of most fever; the beneficial and peculiar advantage of employing it in the primary stage of which, however, has hitherto been too little regarded by the faculty. If indeed the circumstances in which it is employed be the proper ones, and its management well conducted, it rarely fails of promoting a salutary effect; but the most judicious manner of employing this potent remedy requires particular notice; for on this, in a great degree, depends its success; and to the contrary may be ascribed, I believe, not only its failure but its disgrace. We are, however, in perpetual hazard of doing too little or too much in the practice of physic: this is particularly the case with the adoption of blood-letting, because it is not at all periods an easy task to make our measures just suited for the removal of the urgent symptoms, without exhausting the resources of the system. *Blood, the vital fluid, is not to be drawn off by measure so much as by its effects.* In a practical point of consideration no remedy is of more importance than blood-letting; yet no remedy is more abused, none treated with greater apathy and indifference, as to its good or bad effects on the constitution; I would therefore earnestly entreat the public, as it regards its own welfare, to consider this subject in a more serious and lucid light than has hitherto been done; at the same time I would strongly recommend practitioners to accurately investigate its powers, on an enlarged and comprehensive view, as they value the vital interests of society, and the advancement of the medical art.

"The subject, however, though it may appear trifling to some unreflecting persons, is as difficult as it is important; and a right understanding of its *modus operandi*, founded on the principles and laws of the animal economy, requires long and multiplied observation, and no ordinary degree of ardour and perseverance. It has for a series of years closely engaged my attention, and it has, in fact, long maintained an undulating reputation among the first characters in the profession, some of whom have been induced to change even their own sentiments of its utility. We may therefore certainly conclude that it has been, under some circumstances, conspicuously useful; under others, conspicuously the reverse. While this confession on the part of authors is honourable to the individuals, it is

equally mortifying to the pride of reason, and the dignity of medical science.

"In an individual case, an effect may be evident, and a superficial judge may imagine that he sees the cause equally apparent; but, by extending his observations to a greater length, he will probably perceive the same effect where a like cause does not exist; and consequently his first supposition must have been illusory. It follows, then, that an author who undertakes to write on such a subject, ought to be unfettered by prejudice, and should not give himself up to theory unaided by experience, but to compare his own inferences, and those of preceding writers, with the result of actual inspection, made under as many similar and dissimilar circumstances as the case admits.

"The great and multiplied diversity of opinion on almost every disease will astonish even a *professional* reader. Such is the mazy labyrinth of a mass of heterogeneous notions, that (continues Dr. Dods) I soon found the useful was not to be *discriminated* from that which is frivolous or erroneous, without much toil and experience. Each different writer has framed an hypothesis of his own, and has laboured hard to support it; and I have employed a great deal of laborious research in order to collect something like truth from their contradictory accounts. It has been my chief aim to ascertain facts more than to maintain opinions: to study the economy of nature, rather than to shackle her with conjectural or inconsistent theories. Indeed I have throughout been desirous to communicate useful information for the benefit of the community, confining my attention chiefly to points of real *practical* importance, by avoiding as much as possible all hypothetical speculations and controversial discussion. It is indeed much to be lamented, that we are so little benefited by the errors and failures of our predecessors; and that our knowledge must be so dearly purchased in the school of experience, to be profoundly directed. This would be of comparatively trivial moment, did the consequence devolve upon ourselves only; but it assumes a widely different aspect and interest, when the lives that are entrusted to us become the price at which wisdom is to be purchased."

Hence in the consideration of blood-letting in febrile and other diseases, Dr. D. has endeavoured to reduce it to some plain principles of practice; to fix it on a basis of pathology, which will be confirmed by actual observation and experience; and this the Doctor has accomplished, at least with respect to most acute fevers; for, however varied may be their causes, and external symptoms, still the chief effects on the vital organs are few and almost uniformly the same; a circumstance which appears to have been calamitously overlooked, even by our best systematic writers; and the dogmas of the schools had nearly proscribed for a while, what nature and observation had pointed out from the earliest period of medicine to the present time, in all climates. Indeed the bounding pulse, the fever-flushed cheek, the suffused eyes, the throbbing temples, and the aching head, must have vindicated the propriety of blood-letting in every age, and in every mind not warped by the bias of some

fashionable doctrine. "Nevertheless," says the Doctor, "the same species of fever, (and it cannot be too much impressed upon the memory) may have varieties so different, as to require not only different methods, but great modifications of even the same treatment; our means should therefore be changed according to the nature of those varieties, that they may, generally speaking, be safe in each, and efficacious in all."

"Moreover, we should also never forget, that diseases are strikingly modified by the *classes of society*, by the habituation of individuals, and by different ages and temperaments wherein they are met: for the same treatment will not equally succeed in the pampered citizen, the higher and middle ranks, the pallid mechanic or the sedentary artizan, the weather-beaten seaman or soldier, and the florid-cheeked peasant. Our great object then is in adapting the means to the end; in distinguishing between constitutions; and in marking the different stages of diseases, of which Hippocrates notices four,—viz. the beginning, augmentation, height, and declination. The ascendant power, both of the depressing and exciting passions upon physical man, although generally known as an abstract principle, is not, perhaps, allowed its due weight, in this country at least, either in theoretical or practical medicine. In every potent exertion of the imagination, some corresponding alteration takes place in the functions and structure of the body. Hence the impulse of *mental* feelings, from the most placid meditations up to a paroxysm of rage on the one hand, or down to an abyss of despair on the other, deserves to be constantly and carefully taken into the calculation of every person, whose province it is to cultivate pathology, or the practice of physic. This is a subject of great importance to the improvement of medicine. Romazini set the example of a work of no small utility on the diseases of different trades or professions, which has been too much neglected by the medical profession of this country; for all classes or communities, peculiar and select in their habits and modes of life, sorrows and enjoyments, have maladies peculiar to themselves. Again, we see the mind not acting as a mere *cerebral secretion*, but as a sentiment, reflecting principle, governing by immutable laws the action of the individual. In short, every man is born with a certain constitution of body and mind independent of his own choice. It is on the foregoing accounts likewise, that HOSPITAL PRACTICE is rarely applicable, in its full extent, to the miscellaneous and more varied features of disease in the chequered actions of private life.

"It must of course then appear clear to every one who duly reflects upon the subject, and whose mind is open to conviction, that after the foundation of a general medical education has been regularly and properly laid, every member of the profession should practise, at least for a number of years, in all the different branches of the healing art, in order to divest himself of scholastic dogmas and axioms, which oftentimes cramp and narrow the minds of men, and to acquire from actual ocular demonstration a familiar and discriminating knowledge of the innumerable conflicting events of human

nature, as influenced by all stages of health and disease, as well as by all stages of civilization and refinement, from the most elevated even to the lowest class. What a picture for the contemplative intellect of man!! When this plan shall be followed generally, the faculty, one and all, will be more sound, and of course better practitioners; and the excess and extremes of speculative theories, with which the medical world has been overwhelmed, to the incalculable disadvantage of the community, will recede from the expanding intellectual light.

"It may, however, appear somewhat strange, that the most diametrically contrary plans have succeeded in fever, and been held by their supporters as infallible. Many have therefore conjectured that were fevers left entirely in the hands of nature, as many would recover as would have done under the most skilful treatment. Whatever seeming reality there may be in this, it is scarcely reasonable to suppose that nearly the same proportion recover under all sorts of treatment. Under *judicious* modern means, unquestionably not only a greater proportion recover from the graver types of fever, but a vast number of fevers are prevented from running into the more dangerous forms. Hippocrates, a minute observer of nature, considered disease to be only a disturbance of the animal economy, with which nature was perpetually at variance, and using her utmost endeavours to expel the offending cause; and, in short, (says Dr. Dods,) I conceive that by adopting proper curative means, which involve a forcible grappling with morbid action, and assist nature in her innate efforts, at the commencement of these alarming diseases, they may be for the most part readily divested of all their terrors. But the proper treatment of Typhus and other fevers of debility, as well as visceral inflammation which is certainly the most prevalent of all complaints, is undoubtedly both medical and surgical; and, for the insurance of a general successful issue, the adoption of this mode is absolutely necessary to be fully understood and practised by the person *first* consulted. Hence this plan I strongly recommend, and hope every chiro-physician* will adopt the same on every opportunity which may present itself to him, being well assured, from long and ample experience, that the principle is good, and the mind and the life of the patient generally are not thereby kept in suspense and danger. The time is fast approaching when the public will see and be

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* "A physician practically acquainted with surgery. Another opportunity must be embraced to state the *rationale* of my opinion respecting the intimate connexion which those diseases commonly called medical or constitutional, surgical or local and external, and mixed or compound, have with each other, and the importance of this fact. Were this much neglected subject more justly attended to, many operations which take place under the present system would be rendered unnecessary, and many legs and arms, and even lives, would be saved."

fully convinced of the very superior advantages of this mode. It is indeed during the first three or four days only, when the above treatment can in general be of much avail: let this fact be borne in mind; for it well deserves the attention of the humane and enlightened, and may help to explain more, than at first sight might be expected. That pernicious phantom of prejudice and false doctrine, DEBILITY OR WEAKNESS, THE CAUSE OF FEVER, which, under various forms, has long haunted the imaginations of physicians, rather than any popular prejudices, against decisive measures at the beginning, must have actually sacrificed thousands of human beings. On this subject, I shall have occasion to notice the opinions of many celebrated authors, such as Cullen, Brown, Fordyce, &c."

Doctor Dods has imposed upon himself a very arduous task, but evidently, not one he is unable to perform in a masterly manner. From the specimen he has given us, we may venture to predict that, by the prosecution of his plan, he will make all the profession his debtors, and confer obligation on the public, which will immortalize his fame. From a certain set of partially educated physicians, or more properly speaking, regular quacks, the Doctor must expect to meet with some opposition, if not the most unqualified abuse; but the public is become competent to form a just estimate of the value of medical publications, and the objects of the authors, and to it he may confidently look for a reward of his labours.—For what he has already done we cordially thank him.

BURNS AND SCALDS.—Our intelligent correspondent "*Chemicus*," informs us that he has met with several bad cases of burns and scalds, in which the topical application of well carded cotton-wool succeeded in effecting a cure in a few days. For this discovery he is indebted to chance:—"The child of a negro in the West Indies, in consequence of falling into boiling water, was most dreadfully scalded;—the mother, being ignorant of any mode of treatment, immediately laid the child on the cotton wool she had been carding, and covered it over with it. After crying for about fifteen minutes it fell asleep, and remained so for some hours. The cotton wool adhered closely to the injured parts, and being caked by the discharge, completely defended the surface from the action of the atmosphere. In the course of a few days the whole peeled off with the injured skin, leaving a healthy surface covered with a new cuticle. In some parts the mischief had been deep, the true skin having been destroyed. The same treatment has been adopted near Haddington and other places, in several bad cases of burns and scalds, with the same happy results. When the discharge exudes through the first layer, more cotton must be added to absorb it. Chemicus seems to infer, from the cessation of pain which takes place a few minutes after the application of the cotton, that it has some chemical action on the matter of heat. In order that it should adhere to the injured part, the surface should he moist.

CHRONIC DIARRHŒA.—We have received from different parts of the country the most favourable reports of the efficacy of alumine, in cases of chronic diarrhœa, of elderly people, administered

according to the manner directed in our 51st number. In every case it appears not only to have checked the disease, but allayed spasms in the bowels, promoted digestion, and improved the general health. It has also been found very beneficial in gleet and fluor albus.

HOARSENESS.—A clergyman residing in the north of England, being incapable of performing his duty, in consequence of hoarseness, came to London for the purpose of being regularly attended by a physician, of whose professional abilities he entertained a very favourable opinion. Having patiently given his prescriptions a trial, and followed his advice with respect to diet, &c. for twelve months, without experiencing the slightest benefit, he requested the attendance of another eminent physician, who, in addition to the medicines he was taking, ordered a stimulating gargle. Receiving no benefit from the regular attendance of the two physicians for six months, he applied to us. On examining the seat of his complaint, we discovered the parts forming the larynx to be considerably enlarged. Its membrane and lining, as well as that of the windpipe, was also in a state of morbid excitement. We advised him to inhale the hydrocarbonate gas, as the most likely means of allaying the morbid irritability of the parts, in consequence of coming in contact with the seat of the complaint. With this advice the patient acquainted his consulting physicians, who treated it with contempt, observing that the factitious airs had long been abandoned by *thinking* physicians after a very fair trial. The patient, however, gave the remedy a trial, and after persevering in its use one fortnight, recovered his natural voice. The enlargement of the larynx afterwards rapidly subsided; and in one fortnight more, he performed his church duty with as much ease as ever. He presented us with about two hundred prescriptions, the perusal of which afforded us much amusement. The classes of stimulants, antistimulants, tonics, antiphlogistics, rubefacients, diaphoretics, cathartics, with a variety of curious compounds of each, had had a fair trial; and the vegetable and mineral poisons had been so liberally administered, that we could not avoid congratulating him on his escape. The fees he paid to the physicians only amounted to two hundred and sixty pounds, and the medicine he took to one hundred and twenty pounds. Now the opposition of such men to our publication is not so *inconsistent* or *irrational* as some of our reflecting readers imagine.

CHELTENHAM SALT.—After many experiments, we are now enabled to offer the public compound crystals, a solution of which, in water, is in every respect similar to the aperient chalybeate water obtained at the Spa in Cheltenham. The crystals which are sold under the name of "Cheltenham Salt," we have stated, in a former number, are sulphate of soda. They neither contain the sulphate of magnesia nor iron, in which the peculiar medicinal virtues of the Cheltenham salt reside. Even the composition of salts advertised in London, under the name of Chalybeate Aperient, or true Cheltenham Salt, do not contain iron, and are therefore improperly termed *chalybeate*. The salt in crystals we now offer to the public,

as containing all the medicinal properties of the Cheltenham water, may be obtained at the Medical Hall, 170, Piccadilly. Those who have been in the habit of taking the Cheltenham water, will find, on giving this salt a trial, that a solution of it in water (in the proportion of half an ounce to a pint) does not differ in taste, nor in its effects on the bowels and constitution, from the Cheltenham water; and we defy any *chemist* to prove our assertion, as to its combinations, incorrect. The method of producing the compound crystals we shall give in an early number.

PRUSSIC ACID.—This article being a very powerful poison, and being sold by chemists of different strength, it is necessary for us to acquaint our readers that the directions we have *lately* given for its exhibition, apply only to the article sold at the Chemical Hall, the full dose of which is four drops. The best method of preparing the acid for medicinal purposes is, by decomposing the prussiate of potass by means of the dilute sulphuric acid. The acid may thus always be obtained of a certain strength. We consider it also our duty to state that the Prussic acid obtained at the shops of some chemists in London, although recommended by writers on the article, is much too weak to produce any effect. For allaying pulmonic irritation, or morbid excitement of nerves, this acid is unquestionably a most valuable remedy.

SHOWER BATH. — Mr. Machill, an ingenious surgeon of London, has made an improvement on the shower bath, which possesses many important advantages. By means of compressed air, the water is thrown out with a degree of force, by which some physicians assert, the application of cold water to the surface of the body is rendered more efficacious in cases of general debility. The operation is also over in a few seconds. It has likewise the great recommendation of admitting of being conveyed with the apparel in a portmanteau.

EMPIRICAL ADVERTISERS.—"SIRS,—As the account published in your 51st Number of a noted empirical concern,—H-tt-n G-rd-n, has been falsely ascribed to me, I beg leave to deny the charge; but, at the same time, so far as my information leads me, there is much truth in the statement.

"The business is at present conducted by a young man of twenty-three years of age, who certainly cannot boast thirty years' experience in delivering his opinion to the patients. The letter signed 'Henry Woodcock' was hurting the cause of the person he espoused, whom I never had any doubt was "*purity itself.*"

I am, Sir,

"*Woodstock Street,* Your obedient Servant,

"*May 24th,* 1820. H. MACFARLANE, Surgeon."

SPEEDIMAN'S STOMACHIC PILLS. — "For indigestion, bilious cholic, long costiveness, gout, jaundice, restlessness, dropsy, ruptures, flatulence, &c." The proprietor gives with each box of his pills a concise dissertation on the causes of health and disorders. "*Good* health," he sagaciously observes, "depends on *good* diges-

tion, and good digestion on the healthy state of the stomach." Disorders therefore arise from injury done to the stomach, by taking "too much or too great a variety of food and drink, too much fruit, too much vegetables, bad wine, cyder, beer, punch, spirits of any kind; from tough phlegm, deficiency of bile, too thin clothing, too little sleep, and anxiety of mind." From these causes the proprietor has ascertained, "want of appetite, wind in the stomach, obstruction in the bowels, heart-burn, palpitation of the heart, costiveness, cramp, and vomiting," proceed. The stomachic pills, therefore, by removing the *effects* of these complaints, ensure good health. They cure jaundice and dropsy, by "removing obstruction and purifying the blood. For gouty people, they are the best physic, when they cannot bear exercise or *cold* purgatives:" and for "travellers, by sea or by land, they are superexcellent; and for all the diseases enumerated above, they are an infallible remedy." The composition of these pills we find to be the essential oil and extract of camomile, and rhubarb powder,—a two-shilling box, containing fourteen pills, of various sizes, about eighteen pence more than any chemist would charge. By an addition of dried soda and ginger powder, the remedy would be much improved as a stomachic, in cases of real debility of the stomach, in the following proportions:—

Take of Extract of camomile, one drachm;
Essential Oil of ditto, fifteen drops;
Powdered ginger; powdered rhubarb;
Dried Carbonate of Soda, of each one scruple;

Mix well together, and form into a mass with simple syrup. To be divided into thirty pills, two or three to be taken twice a day.

RADICAL TEA.—The article sold in London under this name, we find to be a composition of the cheapest herbs; viz. balm, rosemary, mint, agrimony, and colt's foot. Although it cannot, at the dearest market, cost the proprietors more than 8d. a pound, it is retailed to the public at the exorbitant price of three shillings!! Such are the disinterested views of those radically good gentlemen, who profess to be actuated by a desire to relieve their distressed fellow creatures, in recommending it to their notice. In our 50th Number we have noticed a composition of British herbs, which, although many of the articles are expensive, (particularly the dried rose leaves, veronica, and sage-thyme,) is sold at twenty-pence a pound, at the Medical Hall, 170, Piccadilly. The radical composition is stimulating only, and therefore the long continued use may be injurious. By the addition of rose leaves and veronica, it is rended stomachic; and as an article of diet, particularly for breakfast and supper, very salubrious. From the use of this compound, many invalids of weak stomachs, and gouty or rheumatic predispositions, have received the most essential benefit. That the foreign tea and coffee are very injurious to the stomach and nervous system, is a fact no medical man of experience, observation, and probity, will deny.

GAZETTE OF HEALTH.

No. 55. To JULY 1, 1820. Vol. V.

Of Dr. GEORGE PEARSON,

Physician to St. George's Hospital, and to the Duke of York, Licentiate of the College of Physicians, Lecturer on the Theory and Practice of Medicine, &c. &c. &c.

This gentleman's biographer informs us, that he is descended from a respectable family who formerly occupied Mouse Hall, in the county of Derby. After a preliminary education, which his parents considered liberal, he was sent to Edinburgh to study medicine. Here, after the period assigned for residence, he obtained the distinguished honour of a Doctor's degree in medicine. The thesis which he or the *University amanuensis* composed on this occasion, his biographer has not condescended to notice, probably in consequence of the Doctor having been less communicative to him than the physicians whose lives appear in detail in his work. Having stored his mind with all the medical facts and flights of fancy the university of Edinburgh then afforded, the Doctor visited some of the most respectable universities on the Continent, where, it is said, he acquired a relish for the study of chemistry, which, at that time, by the indefatigable application of some eminent philosophers, was justly deemed a *new* science.

On his return to England, the Doctor determined to settle in London, it being, in his opinion, better supplied with the loaves and fishes than any other place in the known world; and consequently where genuine merit was most likely to meet with its deserts. He was so satisfied with his stock of medical and general philosophical knowledge, that he commenced his career by delivering a course of lectures on the important branches of medicine, chemistry, materia medica, and the causes, phenomena, cure, &c. of diseases. By blending, as it were, modern chemistry with the practice of medicine, the Doctor supposed he should give the whole a brilliant appearance, that must necessarily prove irresistibly attractive. The plan was brought forward with such eclat, that the Doctor's friends could not justly accuse him of concealing his talents in a napkin. Dr. George Fordyce being at this time well established as a lecturer on the different branches of medicine, and being also an experienced physician, and well acquainted with modern chemistry, Dr. Pearson did not experience that encouragement which he had anticipated. He however persevered in delivering four courses of lectures on the practice of physic, pharmacy, and chemistry, annually; and on the death of Dr. Fordyce he was deservedly considered the most eminent lecturer in London: and this high situation he has maintained with great credit to himself for upwards of twenty years. The Doctor's chemical knowledge has not yet enabled him,

to explain the *modus operandi* of remedies, nor to throw any additional light on the nature and cure of diseases, or on the phenomena of animal life. In his lectures on the theory and practice of physic, he has not broached any new doctrine, nor any new mode of treating a disease. Indeed, so little pleasure does he take in this department of medicine, that when delivering a lecture he seems to be under the influence of some anodyne; and the infectious nature of gaping, yawning, and dosing, or rather the imitative instinct of youth, is beautifully manifested in his pupils, so that the teacher and his attendants would afford a most interesting subject for the pencil of a Hogarth. His lecture on the external and internal uses of opium, is in general so particularly impressive, that it is not an uncommon occurrence for one half of the class to be snoring. When he commences chemistry the scene changes—from tragedy all is now comedy —the Doctor is exceedingly animated, and the pupils fully alive to the passing events. The results of his experiments generally turned out as he had led them to expect, and when they did not, he generally assigned a reason which proved satisfactory. To the Doctor's lectures, we agree with his biographer, the first characters in the medical profession of this country are indebted for their first instruction, and the taste they have continued to have for the science. As a chemist, the merits of Dr. Pearson rank high among medical men; but on the Continent, although in the strictest sense of the word he has been a *labourer* in the field, he is little known, probably in consequence of having been so long eclipsed by his countrymen, Blacke, Wollaston, Boddoes, Davy, and Brande. We believe he was the first practitioner who recommended the phosphate of soda as an aperient medicine, a preparation which, about twenty years ago, had an extensive trial; but the result did not keep up the character the Doctor gave it, and it is now fallen into disuse. In consequence of the high estimation in which many of the members of the Royal College of Physicians held the nostrum, James's Fever Powders, as a sudorific in cases of fever, the College employed Dr. Pearson, although only a licentiate, to analyse it for their information. This commission the Doctor readily executed; and the result was so satisfactory to the learned body, that they gave the Doctor's receipt for making it in their new Pharmacopœia, under the name of "*Antimonial Febrifuge Powder.*" The members of the College who were in the habit of prescribing James's powders, contended that the antimonial febrifuge powder had not the same effect as the *true* James's powder, in cases of fever. It was however soon ascertained that the opposition of those gentlemen arose from interested motives. By appointing Dr. Pearson to examine the powder *chemically,* it is evident, that among their number they could not find one equal to the task!! Although it was evident, by Dr. Pearson's report, that James's powder was not made according to the specification on which the patent was granted, this learned body did not take the trouble to acquaint the legislature with the deception that had been practised upon them; and the proprietor of the powders thought it most prudent not to adopt proceedings against the College, or the makers of the antimonial pow-

der, for infringing on the patent. The reputation of James's powders rapidly declined after the death of the physicians who patronised it; and at this time, we believe, in this country, the antimonial powder and the tartarised antimony, (which is the most efficacious,) have superseded it.

When the supposed preventive power of cow-pox against small-pox contagion was promulgated by Dr. Jenner, Dr. Pearson was the first physician in London who warmly embarked in the speculation. So confident was the Doctor that all Dr. Jenner had asserted in its favour was true, that he established a dispensary, for the purpose of extending the blessing of the discovery, by vaccinating the poor gratuitously. Dr. Jenner, being jealous of the prominent character the Doctor was then acting in London, in giving it publicity, started a Mr. Ring, an obscure practitioner, in opposition to him. The Doctor treated this opponent with the most sovereign contempt, allowing him to write the most ridiculous nonsense on the subject with impunity. The result of the Doctor's experiments was so much in favour of the preventive powers of cow-pox, for three years, that he was induced to offer a reward of fifty pounds to any person who might produce, at his dispensary, one case of small-pox subsequent to cow-pox inoculation. Soon after the publication of this offer, some applications were made for the reward; but as the patients had not been vaccinated at the dispensary, they were pronounced to be by no means satisfactory cases *to the Doctor.* In the space of a few months afterward, so many applications were made by patients who had been vaccinated at the dispensary, that the Doctor was under the necessity of admitting that it would not secure *all* constitutions against small-pox infection: and the cases of failure continuing to increase, the Doctor shut up the dispensary and relinquished the practice. Whether the reward of fifty pounds, offered by the Doctor for a case of failure, was ever paid or not, we have not been able to ascertain; although our enquiries were made of the gentlemen who superintended the Doctor's institution. The Doctor, we are glad to find, is ashamed of having so warmly taken up a practice, before its real merits had been properly ascertained.

About twenty-eight years ago the Doctor was appointed physician to St. George's Hospital, the duties of which he has discharged in a manner satisfactory to the Governors and highly creditable to himself. This hospital, from its size, being a poor school for medicine, the appointment has not added much to his celebrity as a physician, or to his class of pupils. About the year 1809 he was elected a member of the Royal Society, the transactions of which contain a dissertation, from his pen, on the different kinds of mucus, the object of which was to enable practitioners to distinguish organic disease of the lungs from mere irritation of the membrane lining the wind-pipe and bronchial ramifications. In this article he states that no less than one hundred and forty persons annually fall victims to diseases of the lungs in Great Britain. The trouble the Doctor has there taken in pointing out the distinguishing appearances of mucus and pus, we are fearful is labour lost, for it has been productive of no practical utility.

The Doctor is also Physician in Ordinary to the Duke of York; and, highly to his credit, his Royal Highness has enjoyed good health ever since he was honoured with the appointment, for which he is no doubt indebted to the learned Doctor for his salutary admonitions on temperance, regularity, &c. &c. &c.

To the Doctor's pen the medical world is not indebted for any other book than the outlines of his Lectures, which, as we have already observed, contains nothing new. Many communications from him, however, appear in the Philosophical Transactions, the merits of which we cannot discover, although we are desirous to think favourably of his talents. Notwithstanding the services the Doctor has rendered the College of Physicians in correcting their Pharmacopœia, and in giving them an analysis of James's Powder, he still continues on the list of licentiates, a set of practitioners which the learned body have represented to the legislature to be necessary in this metropolis to prescribe in *common cases* of disease, in order to relieve the members of the College, whose time is occupied in attending patients *seriously* afflicted!!! The Doctor, so far from being dissatisfied with this explanation, has expressed, in a certain quarter, his approbation of the restrictive bye-laws of the College, at the same time not forgetting to intimate that he should feel flattered by being admitted a member of so learned and liberal a body!!! We hope his intimation will meet with the attention that is due to it from so enlightened a body of philosophers!!

No man has held in greater contempt the little mean arts generally employed by fashionable physicians to attract public notice than Dr. Pearson. He has even neglected what have been termed "accessary accomplishments," which Professor Gregory has pronounced to be as necessary to ensure success as a knowledge of medicine, and which no doubt have as much weight with a patient as with the public. If in dress and manners the Doctor is not the accomplished gentleman, he is in his general deportment the man of tenderness and humanity. If he does not enter or back out of a room with the dignity and grace of a Halford; when at the bed-side of a patient he conducts himself like a man of science. He interrogates with judgment, and listens to the patient's narrative with becoming patience. In the following scene, viz. that of prescribing medicine and giving instructions to the nurse, he is equally great. His remedies are always proportioned to the urgency of the case, and his prescriptions are neat and chemical. On the whole his conduct in the house of the sick generally inspires confidence, and his obsequious bow on taking the fee, and his extreme affability, leave a favourable impression on the minds of the domestics, from the housekeeper to the scullion. The Doctor having neglected the study of surgery, we cannot pronounce him a complete physician; for a knowledge of this department of medicine we consider as necessary to form the practical physician, as that of chemistry or pharmacy. In his mode of living, the Doctor has displayed an example of temperance which will no doubt preserve for many years the activity and vigour of his mind and body. Whoever duly considers the important task which devolves to the charge of a medical man, that on the soundness of his

judgment, and often on the nicest discrimination, the fate of a fellow creature depends, will consider temperance as great a recommendation of a physician as suavity of manners. The author of "Authentic Memoirs of the eminent Physicians and Surgeons of Great Britain," introduces the life of Dr. Pearson with the following very just observations:

"The success of a physician in the metropolis is so precarious, as to be considered proverbial. Accident often accomplishes what merit in vain strives for; and the reputation that leads to practice and fortune, is more the effect of chance than real desert. A reputation, however, so gained, is as easily lost as acquired; and the fashionable doctor, whose carriage has for years beset every door, often lives to be without a patient on his list. This might be exemplified in innumerable instances. But the character which is the result of scientific attainments, is not so easily shaken. It survives the whim and caprice of the day; and when once it reaches the goal, it continues to maintain its ground, and, like the oak, is rooted to its place, without being affected by the malevolence of detraction, or the temporary support of popular applause. This has been particularly the case with the subject of the present memoir. He has chalked out a walk for himself; and his reputation, built on the basis of science and real professional accomplishments, has gradually increased, and can suffer no diminution, so long as the powers of his mind continue their wonted energy and exertion."

THEORY OF LIFE.—*(By D. H. Bacon, Esq. of Southampton Row.)*—"Some of the philosophers of the present day have recently displayed no small share of science and ingenuity in an enquiry into Mr. Hunter's Theory of Life, which maintains that the life of man has no dependance on organization; and I find that several of their lucubrations have graced the pages of the Gazette of Health: but as it is evident that the truth of the doctrine must ever rest on Revelation as its only basis, I think I may venture to predict, that were the combatants to maintain the contest for a century to come, neither of the parties would be able to throw a single ray of light upon the subject.

"The observations I have to offer on the merits of this discussion, shall be confined solely to the arguments adduced by three of the prominent characters engaged in the investigation.

"Mr. Hunter's Theory of Life constitutes the subject of one of the lectures delivered by Mr. Abernethy before the Royal College of Surgeons in London. The doctrine of a state of separate existence being a portion of Revelation, no question in theology respecting it can be entertained. The lecturer must therefore be viewed merely in his capacity of physiologist, agreeably to the nature of the medium of his communications, to which he gives the appellation of Physiological Lectures.

"The lecturer states that he comes forward 'the advocate of Mr. Hunter's Theory of Life.' It does not appear, however, that he has afforded any assistance to the cause, besides that of adding one to the number of its adherents; yet it seems worthy of remark, that while officiating in the capacity of Mr. Hunter's advocate, he

has the address to assume a different character, to introduce a position of his own, taking special care to have the two characters so intimately amalgamated, that the odium to which his own project is entitled, is calculated invariably to fall upon the theory of Mr. Hunter. The sole object Mr. Hunter had in view was, to adduce facts in support of a mere theory. The lecturer chose to go a mighty stride further, for he undertook to prove the *truth* of the theory. He says, 'I hope, therefore, to be able, by such an examination, to convince you of the *truth* of his opinions on that subject, for I hear there are some who still say they think them either unintelligible or inadmissible.' He seems not to have been aware that the achievement he had undertaken was an utter impossibility; for the evidences to prove that life does not depend on organization are not to be found, if he were to ransack the whole of the physical world. He takes no trouble to avoid appearing inconsistent with himself. At one time he will not allow the Theory of Life to be a subject of metaphysics, for he says, 'no man can, I think, account Mr. Hunter's Theory of Life to be metaphysical; but at another time he shews it to be purely metaphysical, to be mere opinions generated and lodged in the regions of fancy above the cognizance of the human faculties; for he says, 'It is not meant to be affirmed that electricity is life. I only mean to argue in favour of Mr. Hunter's Theory, by shewing that a subtile substance of a quickly and powerfully mobile nature seems to pervade every thing, and appears to be the life of the world; and that therefore it is probable a similar substance pervades organized bodies, and is the life of these bodies.' Here a mobile subtile substance seems to pervade every thing, that is, seems to the mind's eye and not the bodily eye, for he does not presume to say that the bodily eye has recognized it. Then he alleges, that like unto his unseen substance, there is another unseen substance, which probably, for it is not certain, pervades organized bodies, and is the life of these bodies. He has thus placed before his mind's eye two subtile substances, unseen by his bodily eye, and he sees them both so very distinctly by his mind's eye, that he can draw a comparison between them. There is one of them which he does not suppose to be the life of bodies, but he alleges that the other, which is like it, probably pervades organized bodies, and is the life of these bodies. He only means to say, that he can conjure up in his own mind a supposition than an unseen and unknown thing which is like another unseen and unknown thing, may probably be the life of bodies. But although all these are mere spectres of the imagination, which do not belong to the physical world, he gravely tells his audience, that he cannot account them a metaphysical subject: and notwithstanding he takes the liberty of comparing one unseen and unknown substance with another unseen and unknown substance, he seems astonished 'to hear there are some who still say they think them either unintelligible or inadmissible.' He is so displeased with these philosophers, who are not disposed to accompany him into the land of spirits, that he has contrived a punishment for them, which is that of being branded with the epithet of modern sceptics. He

says, 'I shall include all the individuals who compose this party under a general denomination, which I think appropriate to them, and call them the modern sceptics.' He does not seem to be aware, that by placing his opponents under what he deems the appropriate denomination of modern sceptics, he must either allow the opprobrium to fall equally on his own head, or henceforth abjure the title of physiologist, and forfeit the privilege of delivering lectures on physiology before the College of Surgeons.

"The lecturer thinks he can demonstrate, by the light of nature, that life is not dependent on organization; for he states, 'that observations on disease demonstrate the perverted actions of the same structures to produce a great variety of effects, which is a proof that the actions of life do not depend merely on organization:' but it is to be observed, that the premises here adduced do not lead to the conclusion, because in the case of disease, the same structures might produce all the variety of effects, in consequence of the accidental superaddition or diminution of substances entirely different from those of life, by which the structures might be materially affected. It is not philosophical to judge from effects, whether they are to be ascribed to the mere properties of structure, or to life not dependent on structure, because our senses convey to us no knowledge whatever of the nature of either of them. Among the numerous inconsistencies which attach to the conduct of the lecturer, there is one which betrays itself in a prominent manner in this part of the discussion. He seems scrupulously careful to guard against opinions of an irreligious tendency, and yet he himself volunteers to prove, from the light of nature, that the life of man does not depend on organization, an attempt which is powerfully hostile to Revelation, by disseminating the notion that the Scriptures have not the exclusive credit of communicating to the world the glad tidings of a separate state of existence.

"In common phraseology it is said that a thing is known when, in reality, it is utterly unknown, and when its effects only are known; and indeed it does not appear that a knowledge of more than the mere effects of a thing is requisite for the present condition of the human race. When we open our eyes to survey the works of Nature, we acquire no knowledge whatever of the animating principle of the sublime process carried on in the vast machine of the universe. Its operations alone are in our power to recognise. The most able chemist, or the most intelligent naturalist, finds it beyond his powers to acquire more knowledge of things animate or inanimate, than the mere operations they perform. If this sphere of knowledge is not sufficient to satisfy us, we would betray a want of wisdom, for invariable experience shews that all attempts to soar higher have ever proved abortive. All our knowledge is received through the medium of our senses, which take cognizance of nothing but what is found to exist in the physical world. Locke says, 'Reason is natural revelation, whereby the eternal Father of light, and Fountain of all knowledge, communicates to mankind that portion of truth which he has laid within the reach of their natural faculties,' consequently it would be unreasonable in phy-

siology to expect more knowledge than that which is obtained by means of the senses; and the same author further observes, that 'we have evidence sufficient to direct us in attaining the good, and avoiding the evil, caused by external objects; and that this is the important concern we have in being made acquainted with them.' Were mankind duly solicitous to acquire the knowledge within the reach of their faculties, and to exercise that knowledge in the pursuit of the inestimable objects for which it is conferred, they would find very little time to dissipate in the wilds of fancy. Following the example of Lord Bacon, in despising hypotheses as the mere phantoms of imagination, Sir Isaac Newton laid it down as a rule for philosophizing, that no causes of natural things should be assigned, but such as can be proved to have a real existence; and accordingly we find that in cases where others would have invented a theory, that celebrated philosopher, with the modesty peculiar to great characters, was contented by submitting a simple question to lead to further inquiry, through the exercise of those faculties with which we are endowed. While the heart overflows with gratitude for the invaluable blessings of revelation, it must be acknowledged that natural philosophy enlarges the understanding, and throws a broad and forcible light on the due discharge of all the primary duties of life, which confers a happiness more felt than seen, and is justly entitled to the appellation of a heaven upon earth; yet our knowledge is confined within specific limits. The soul, or the mind, or the life of man, is a subject over which Providence seems to have thrown an impenetrable veil. Its operations are known, while itself is unknown. Hitherto it has proved to us incomprehensible. Perhaps a knowledge of its essence lies among the incommunicable attributes of the Divinity.

"The lecturer seems sensible that he had engaged in an undertaking beyond his powers, and betrays some symptoms of fear at the prospect of the ridicule he was preparing for himself, for he has recourse to the stratagem of intimidating his opponents. He says, 'I thought it prudent to entrench my subject behind a little fortification, made of the most approved rules of reasoning; and neither this out-work nor the subject itself has ever been assailed. If, however, the sceptics had even the power to injure me, still I should not fear them, because I place between us the undisguised truth, which they can neither conquer nor confront.' This language resembles that of the great Goliah, when he had defended himself by a coat of mail, and a helmet of brass, with greaves of brass upon his legs, and in his hand a spear, of which the staff was like a weaver's beam, whereby he imagined that he was rendered invulnerable and invincible, while at the same time he stood in need of the wholesome advice, 'Let not him boast that putteth on the buckler, but him that putteth it off.' By this manœuvre the lecturer shewed that he entertained no very exalted notion of the judgment of his audience, although few persons could suppose the College of Surgeons so dull as not to perceive the disorder of the nerves of their lecturer on this occasion. Sometimes the lecturer appears to move in his proper sphere as a physiologist, when we find him acknowledging that 'all our

information must be derived from our senses.' At other times we see him employed in scrutinizing the essence of spectres with such precision as to be able to determine which of them is more like life than the other. Some diligence, however, is requisite to be able to follow him in his excursions, for when it is least suspected, he skips out of the province of physics, into that of metaphysics, and back again, no doubt in expectation that the audience might suppose him busy in pursuit of his object. But he shews no lenity to others, who presume to take such liberties; for he tells them, that 'whilst its tenants keep within their own territories, or even demean themselves peaceably abroad, I, for one, would never attempt to molest them, nor prevent them from the full enjoyment of their native apathy and activity of mind. But when they make excursions to annoy their neighbours, and in disguise too, it seems necessary to unmask them, and send them home again.' In labouring to gain his point, the lecturer makes an appeal to the light of comparative anatomy, and quotes Professor CUVIER, where he asks, 'Tel ver comment conserve-t-il la vie longtems après être divise?' This fact of a worm being cut in pieces, when each piece lives a long time after the sub-division, appears to have been very injudiciously brought forward on the side of the theory, for it furnishes the opponents of Mr. Hunter with one of the most forcible arguments which the whole physical world could direct against him. It places his doctrine in a state of great embarrassment. At the sight of the fact, every one is obliged either to suppose that life depends on organization, or adopt the extravagant notion that a worm has more lives than one. Those who are not disposed to believe the latter are compelled to adhere to the former, and reject the theory of Mr. Hunter. The lecturer says, 'The heat of incubation would hurry on the putrefaction of a dead egg, but the white and yolk of a living one, which we cannot suppose to be organized, do not putrefy.' This argument entirely depends on the expression, 'which we cannot suppose to be organized,' an expression which is not founded in truth, because every person may suppose it to be organized, and because, when it arrives at maturity, it gives ocular demonstration of stucture. Its organization not being an object of sense, furnishes no objection; an argument which the lecturer has since strengthened with his sanction, for he says, 'There are minute animals, the motions of which are extremely vivacious, and in which all the processes of life are carried on with great celerity and vigour, yet no organization can be detected in them, even by the aid of the microscope.' He tells us that 'Mr. Hunter's opinions may be denied, but cannot be refuted.' This is an argument which does very little credit to the cause, because it is a hackneyed one, applied to numberless opinions, which have no appearance of ever being realized. But the allegation is not true. The opinions are denied with the best possible reason, which is, that they are unfounded. They are shewn to be mere phantoms, which is a complete refutation. Mention is made of the facts, that life has the power to controul fire, to regulate electricity, to govern temperature, to prevent putrefaction, and otherwise counteract chemical agency; but as life possesses that power, whether life does or does not depend on organization, the long details of what life can do are entirely

irrelevant to the question, and seem to be recorded to make a shew of doing much for the theory, when nothing is done. Mr. Abernethy stept forward 'the advocate of Mr. Hunter's Theory of Life,' and as the 'voluntary advocate in the cause of Hunter.' As opinions arise out of facts, they cannot be strengthened but by facts; and although he came forward to support the opinions, he has not adduced a fact from himself, or from any other person, in support of the opinions; consequently he has not, in reality, proved the advocate of Hunter, although he told us that he came forward as 'the voluntary advocate of Hunter.' He likewise voluntary engaged to prove the truth of Mr. Hunter's opinions, an undertaking which Mr. Hunter himself never presumed to attempt. This being an achievement beyond the power of the human faculties, Mr. Abernethy, as was foreseen, has here also completely failed in his efforts. But this is not all, for he has left the cause in a much worse state than he found it. The fate of the Theory was, comparatively, at best, of very little consequence. He has, as far as his words can go, brought the works themselves into disrepute. He alleges that they are no better than mere cyphers to all those who cannot bring their minds to adopt the theory, for that the theory is the only telescope through which their merits can be recognised. His words are —'They seem to me like writings in a cypher, his notions of life forming the only key by which they can be intelligibly read.' Thus the lecturer, by a few words of his mouth, has made the merits of the inestimable and far-famed works of John Hunter, rest upon the mere phantom of a notion."—*(To be continued.)*

STONE IN THE BLADDER.—"Sirs,—Having read on the cover of your Gazette for June last, of Mr. B.'s being wholly relieved in twelve hours in a case (extraordinary indeed, as you state) of the stone, of long standing, by taking a strong decoction of pellitory of the wall, I am induced to solicit the insertion of the following cases, which passed under my own observation.

"Mrs. Miller, who resided a few miles from town, and had for many years been a martyr to this most painful disease, having taken every medicine recommended to her with very little benefit, was encouraged to take a tea-cupful of a strong decoction of pellitory of the wall (fresh) twice a-day. After taking this decoction for about a fortnight, she found herself considerably relieved, and entertained great hopes of a complete cure; but alas! it was a forlorn hope; for after persevering during six months, she found the pellitory had lost all its powers on her, and discontinued its use, and about three years since she died in London, after having suffered the most excruciating tortures.

"Some time after this I recommended the trial of the pellitory to a man named Limpus, suffering under the same malady, recollecting that *non omnibus omnia congruunt.* He also for a time experienced considerable benefit, after which no good effect remained; he then by my advice made a decoction of grains of paradise, which he took in the same manner and quantity, and the beneficial effects from this has been both considerable and lasting. Calculous substances of the size of large peas, and many small ones were voided, one of which, very large, is in my possession. Limpus is now very nearly cured; at times he continues taking the grains of paradise, reduced to a fine

powder, in a small quantity of the water which blacksmiths use for cooling their hot iron; this he finds not only more powerful, but more efficacious.

"A third person, Dr. Robert Scott, author of 'Parallels, &c.' assured me that he found jam made with blackberries of more essential service to him than all other medicines he had taken, which were some hundreds.

"A fourth gentleman, Baron de la Vinstone, informed me that he found most benefit from a strong decoction of the roots of leeks, which he invariably persevered in. The same I have also heard confirmed by Mr. Day, a gardener.

"However, the result of all is, that Mrs. Miller died of a spasmodic attack, occasioned, as was supposed, by the powerful medicines she had from time to time taken for the stone, together with the disease itself. Dr. Scott died at the age of 74, the same disease contributing to his dissolution. The Baron de la Vinstone died of a mortification in the neighbourhood of the bladder, occasioned by a sudden start of his horse. Limpus is living, and is better than he has been for these last twenty years.

"You will oblige me by stating, in your next number, your opinion of Perry's Essence for the tooth-ache, whether it will ultimately injure the teeth or not, having for the last three months suffered most severely from the tooth-ache, and applied almost every remedy recommended without receiving any alleviation, but on the contrary, from some applications, have caused serious excoriations and inflammations; at last a stranger, accidentally calling, strongly recommended Perry's Essence, which having procured, I have the pleasure of relating, entirely relieved me in less than five minutes, nor have I felt the least return. I have for this last fortnight applied the essence to my gums daily. I am, Sir,

"*Northampton*, "Yours obediently,

"*June* 17, 1820. "J. ROBERTS."

In an early number we have given an analysis of Perry's Essence The very favourable reports we have received from different parts of the country confirm the character we have given of it as a remedy for tooth-ache. It is free from any caustic quality, and certainly incapable of doing any injury to a tooth. In cases of caries, it appears to suspend the process of decomposition or decay.

SURGERY.—Messrs. Cooper and Travers have indulged the medical world with a Second Part of their Surgical Essays. The appointment these gentlemen have so long held to two large hospitals in the Borough, and the extensive private practice of Mr. Cooper, induced us to procure a copy of the First Part as soon as its publication was announced. We eagerly cut open the leaves, to add to our stock of surgical knowledge "the practical information" their advertisements promise to give, "to improve the surgical art, to expose popular errors, and to decide some of the many points still involved in obscurity."!!! We were, however, most cruelly disappointed; for not one practical remark, nor a single observation, could we discover, that would do credit to the most superficial observer. On finishing the work, we were at a loss to discover the real object of the publication. Messrs. Cooper and

Travers being members of a society (the Medico-chirurgical) formed for the purpose of receiving and discussing the merits of all discoveries in the different departments of the healing art, and communicating to the profession those of real utility, we suspected that these gentlemen, in undertaking to publish Surgical Essays, had some other object in view than the professed one—of "improving the surgical art." Mr. Astley Cooper is so well established as a surgeon in this country, that *he* cannot stand in need of the aid of a book to give publicity to his name, or to raise him in public estimation. The inference therefore is, that he has been importuned by Mr. Travers, to join him in the speculation, in order that he might be considered his successor in the city, and a proper person to succeed him as lecturer on surgery at St. Thomas's or Guy's Hospital. On further enquiry we have learnt that, for the last six years, the Borough School has greatly fallen off, in consequence of the high estimation in which the abilities of the surgeons of St. Bartholomew's Hospital (particularly of Abernethy, Laurance, and Vencent) are held in the medical world; and, in a great measure, the increasing reputation of Mr. Brookes, and Messrs. Bell and Wilson, as lecturers on surgery and anatomy. Mr. Bell, about five years ago, instituted a quarterly work on surgery, which is well calculated to induce pupils to attend his lectures, and the hospital to which he holds the appointment of surgeon. The declining state of the Borough School rendered some such plan necessary to keep it alive in the minds of the late pupils settled in the country, particularly as its celebrity was likely to experience a further depreciation by the resignation of Messrs. Cline and Cooper. The plan adopted by Mr. Travers is certainly admirably calculated to answer this purpose. Mr. A. Cooper writes to his pupils settled in different parts of the country, for contributions to the work, in terms of friendship, which must necessarily prove highly gratifying to them. Indeed, we have heard that some surgeons residing in Worcester, Gloucester, and Norwich, exhibit his circular letter in a superb frame, in the most prominent part of their surgeries. For so great a man as Mr. A. Cooper, whose celebrity as a surgeon extends throughout the known world, to apply to a surgeon in the country for cases in surgery, and "*his practical remarks*," was certainly highly complimentary. The applications produced so few communications, that Mr. A. Cooper has been under the necessity of ransacking his book of cases thirty years back, for matter to complete the Second Part!! He promises, however, that the Third Part shall be enriched with a long paper from the pen of his coadjutor, the appearance of which may be daily expected.

The Second Part contains Three Essays.—The First embraces Dislocations and Fractures of the Hip and Knee Joint;—the Second, Unnatural Apertures in the Urethra;—and the Third, Encysted Tumours.

We have read the whole attentively, and all we can say of this second production is, that if they afford information to the pupils, or the gentlemen who have been pupils of Mr. A. Cooper, they afford none for those who have attended the lectures of Mr. Abernethy. If they excite admiration in the minds of the former, all they will receive from the latter, will be a contemptuous smile,

Among the compound dislocations of large joints, Mr. Cooper gives the particulars of one of the knee, which happened at Brentford; to which, he says, he was sent *for* by Mr. Oliver. The unfortunate patient, (a Mr. Pritt) "he was informed, when he *got* to Brentford, had fallen from the box of a *mail* coach, and most severely injured his knee." When he arrived at the house, he tells us, "he *immediately* proceeded to examine the *knee*," and that "a large opening was found in the integuments, through which the external condyle of the os femoris (the thigh bone) projected, *so as to be opposite the* EDGES *of the skin*"!!

Messrs. Astley Cooper, Oliver, and Hunter (a surgeon of Richmond) made attempts to reduce the condyle, (whether altogether or one after the other, the learned gentleman does not state;)—"but it could not be effected without *extreme* difficulty, *and the bone, directly the* EXTENSION was *removed*, slipped into its former situation"!!! The learned surgeon proceeds:—"The joint being *freely* opened *by the accident*, the bone dislocated, and when reduced, easily slipping from its place, accompanied with an *extremely* irritable constitution," (properly put to the test) decided *me*, (Mr. A. Cooper) at *once* to propose the amputation of the limb, which being acceded to, it was immediately performed!! Now suppose a pupil of Abernethy's had been "*sent for*" to this patient; would he, after seeing the extent of the mischief, have put the patient to the extreme pain of replacing the dislocated bones? Would he have entertained the most distant prospect of its terminating favourably, even if the extremities of the bones could have been kept in their proper situation? The only question with a pupil of Mr. Abernethy, or of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, would have been—Is the limb to be amputated, or are the ends of the bones to be removed, with the view of saving the limb? Of the two operations, we should have certainly adopted the latter. We should have removed as superficially as possible the ends of the bones; and after paring off, or shaving, as it were, the edges of the lacerated wound, brought them in contact, and bound up the wound. For this operation the accident was a very favourable one. The leg would have been an inch shorter than the other, and he would have had no power of bending the limb; but a straight limb, we conceive, would prove more useful than no leg. The operation would have been less painful and less hazardous, and the cure equally rapid. This operation however, it seems, never entered the mind of Mr. Cooper, or of his former pupils, Messrs. Oliver and Hunter!! "After amputation," Mr. Cooper states, "the constitutional irritation became extremely severe, and *he* being delirious, Mr. Oliver applied leeches to his temples, a blister *under* the occiput, and *gave* the saline mixture, with camphor and the compound powder of ipecacuan. On the following day (adds Mr. Cooper) *I* was sent *for* to visit *him*, but being absent *from* London, *my most able and excellent* FRIEND, Mr. Cline, *senior*, visited *him*, and ordered *him*

Tincture of Opium, five drops;
Powdered Castor, ten grains;
Camphorated Mixture, an ounce and a half.

Mix.—To be taken every fourth hour."—"Soon after the second draught was administered he fell asleep," so that all this most *able*

and *excellent* FRIEND did for the patient was, to order a dose of laudanum, for the castor and camphor possess no medical virtue superior to peppermint water!! The most excellent and able friend received only ten guineas for his most able advice and journey.—The learned surgeon concludes this case with the following very judicious remark:—"It is *probable* that all compound dislocations of the knee joint will require a similar practice, *unless* the wound be so *extremely* small, as to admit readily of its immediate closure." Now is it possible that the wound, with the complete dislocation of so large a joint, should be *extremely small?*

His friend and late dresser, Mr. George Cooper, of Brentford, who, he says, is an *excellent* MAN, has communicated a case of a compound dislocation of the ancle joint. Mr. G. C. removed rather more than an inch of the tibia, and a small portion of the fibula. The dislocation was afterwards of course easily reduced; and with common routine practice of keeping the limb quiet, and the wound clean, the patient recovered. The communication, however, Mr. A. C. terms a *valuable* one, for no other reason, as we can discover, than because it "was sent by a very *excellent* MAN, and a *late dresser.*" Mr. G. Cooper ventures on a little theory, relative to the effects of opium, or rather to confirm the opinion of other great and *excellent* men of its primary and secondary operations; and as the opinion of a pupil is highly esteemed by Mr. A. Cooper, he will of course introduce it in the Surgical Lectures which he is about to publish for the edification of *all* surgeons. "I never observed," says Mr. George Cooper, "on the *one* hand the *stimulating* effects of opium, and on the *other* its *sedative*, so strikingly exemplified as *in* this man; for if he did not take *quite enough* to produce sleep, he was *literally* mad, tearing the bed-clothes, swearing, praying, singing, and making the *oddest grimaces* POSSIBLE; but if he had a full dose, which, by the third week, was two drachms of laudanum, he slept soundly and awoke refreshed"!! Because the patient became delirious, or, as Mr. G. Cooper terms it, "literally mad," after a *small* dose of opium, are we to attribute the effect to the *stimulating* property of the remedy? Was it not, in fact, the effect of its *sedative* operation diminishing, rather than stimulating the powers of the brain? If sleep be the secondary effect of opium, or the consequence of its stimulating effect, why did not sleep, in a proportionate degree, follow the stimulating effect of the *small* dose? A large dose, however, it appears, produced no stimulating effect, but proved primarily sedative!! The patient, he says, was constitutionally irritable; the fact, therefore is, a small dose of opium only subdued the energy of the brain, as to render it incapable of performing its rational functions, while a large dose so far reduced it, as to occasion sleep.

Mr. Astley Cooper, and his pupils, we observe, term the lotions they apply to inflamed parts, or to wounds to prevent inflammation, "*evaporating lotions.*" Mr. G. Cooper, after he bound up the limb, applied an *evaporating* lotion. Mr. Astley Cooper often speaks of an *evaporating* lotion, composed of water, vinegar, and lead: now if its cooling effects arise from evaporation, why order lead, which does not evaporate, and why vinegar, which does not evaporate so readily as water? By so terming the lotion, they no doubt imagine that their readers will give them credit for a knowledge of chemistry!!

bernethy was the first who termed certain lotions *evaporating;* but bernethy is a good chemist, and his lotions are composed of artiles which readily evaporate in a temperature equal to that of the uman body.

In the treatment of compound dislocations of the ancle joint, Mr. Cooper directs the end of the bone to be washed with *warm* ater, as the least extraneous matter admitted into the joint will robably produce and support a suppurative process, and therefore ne utmost care should be taken to remove every portion of it adherg to the end of the bone. One would suppose that no person would hink of reducing a compound fracture, and especially a compound islocation, without having previously removed all extraneous matter, y ablution with warm water, or by means of lint, the former being eldom necessary, in consequence of the attendant hæmorrhage. We owever met with a case of compound dislocation of the ancle joint n the Hereford Infirmary, which terminated unfavourably, in conequence of pieces of straw having adhered to the end of the one when it was reduced. The master of the patient, being present t the time of the accident, reduced the dislocation; and when the atient was put to bed in the infirmary, the ends of the bones being n their proper place, and the wound having a favourable appearnce, we did not think of redislocating the joint, in order to ascertain f the end of the bone had been properly cleaned. All went on favourably till the third day, when inflammation and fever came on. The mischief rapidly extended up the thigh, mortification ensued, nd the patient died. On dissecting the joint we discovered three pieces of straw confined within the articulation. The result of this case points out the propriety of redislocating a compound dislocation of a joint, when not reduced by a surgeon. A Mr. Coates was the attending surgeon of the week, who, we believe, had seen but little hospital practice. With respect to the constitutional treatment, in cases of compound dislocation, and indeed of all accidents, Mr. A. Cooper observes, "we must bear in mind that the patient has a great trial of his powers to undergo," and therefore the depletion, by bleeding or purging, must be regulated according to the health of the patient. Now as the constitution suffers only in such cases from fever or nervous excitement, the loss of blood, by preventing fever, will rather tend to keep up the powers of the system, than to reduce them; and hence we have found that those patients who have lost much blood uniformly do the best. The extent of suppurntion also depends on the degree of fever. The advice therefore not to have recourse to bleeding, because the constitution may stand in need of support before the local mischief is cured, is in our opinion bad. The practice which too generally prevails among surgeons, of administering a purgative a day or two after an accident or operation, is often productive of serious mischief. On this practice Mr. A. Cooper makes the following remark, which, although by no means new, is the only judicious observation we have been able to discover in his work:—"There cannot," says he, "be a worse practice, when a limb has been placed in a good position, and adhesion is proceeding, than to disturb the processes of nature by the frequent changes of position, which the operation of an aperient medicine occasions, and I am *quite sure* that I have seen patients destroyed by their frequent administration." For the two first days after

the commencement of the process of union of a wound, especially a contused one, and after amputation, the slightest circumstance will sometimes produce very serious mischief. This process appears to be of a very delicate nature; for we have known a very trifling injury in a distant part of the body, and even the action of a purgative medicine on the intestines to counteract it, and occasion a complete separation of the parts that had united, probably by occasioning a determination of nervous fluid to the intestines, or the subsequently injured part. It is on this principle that an aperient medicine, administered the day after parturition, so frequently checks the discharge from the uterus. Inflammation of the peritoneum, or puerperal fever, we have known frequently to follow this practice.

The purging system of Dr. Hamilton must be therefore cautiously employed in surgery. There is a practice we have long employed with the most decided advantage, in cases of compound dislocations and fractures, and contused wounds, which neither Mr. Astley Cooper nor his city successor has noticed; that is, of removing, as superficially as possible, the surface of the wound. If these great men, who suppose themselves capable of communicating information that will perfect the surgical art, will take the trouble to examine with a microscope the surface of a contused wound, they will find it very irregular from the torn vessels, muscular or membranous fibres, &c. It is not uncommon to see small vessels and membranous fibres twirled round, so as nearly to form a knot, in consequence of having been overstretched. Such a surface is very unfavourable for that process, which is technically termed, *healing on the first intention.* By shaving off the elongated vessels, &c. &c. so superficially as not to prevent the proper approximation of the edges, a common wound may be converted into an incised one, by the rapid union of which much serious mischief will be prevented. This operation should be performed with such nicety, as to remove only the projecting ends of vessels, &c. The true skin, we believe, seldom requires it.

By the foregoing remarks we do not mean to assert that all the pupils of Mr. Astley Cooper, Mr. Cline, Mr. Travers, or of any of the Borough Lecturers on Surgery are less entitled to the implicit confidence of invalids, than those of Abernethy, Bell, or Brookes; for we are well acquainted with many of the former, of whose judgment we entertain the highest opinion: but those, we know, availed themselves of the privilege the pupils of the different hospitals have, of attending the operations of all the hospitals, and they were capable of distinguishing between sound doctrines and flights of fancy, and, as a lecturer observes, substance from froth.

The First Part of the Surgical *Essays*, we have ascertained from an authentic source, sold well.—The promises held forth by the Authors were certainly very likely to attract the attention of the medical profession, particularly of surgeons. The Second Part, we learn, moves slowly; and we suspect the Third will satisfy the learned gentlemen of the high estimation in which their professional abilities and their literary powers are held even by their own pupils. The result of the present we suspect will damp their ardour, and give them some idea of their proper rank in the medical world.

STATE OF MEDICINE.—SIRS,—Allow me to make the following remarks respecting an ingenious communication which appeared in the last number of your very useful professional Miscellany, entitled, "*State of Medicine in Great Britain.*" Initiated regularly in both the professions of physic and surgery (including pharmacy), and soon after becoming house-apothecary to the infirmary here, where I remained *twenty-five years* nearly, acting in reality likewise as assistant surgeon, I had of course more than ordinary opportunities of experience, to which I may add some years of additional experience as a private practitioner; of which, I trust, I have already given to the public, in printed communications, a tolerable demonstration. With respect to the question, whether the professions of physic and surgery would be studied and practised *separately* or *conjointly*, with greater benefit to the public? the answer would be, provided the individual practising both possessed a knowledge of each *equal* to that possessed by each individual practising them separately, decidedly and abundantly in favour of an individual practising both. The fact is, that the two professions are so intimately connected in certain points, so closely interwoven and interlinked, that in order to afford the best, or most perfect assistance to a patient under a complicated disease, the individual who embraces both professions possessing a comprehensive knowledge of the *whole* state of the patient, has unquestionably an eminent advantage, utterly undiscoverable by the practitioner, either physician or surgeon; whether the case originally appear to fall under the province, or department of one or the other; nor is the *joint opinion* of the two, as is ordinarily supposed, adequate to such case. This circumstance has been repeatedly demonstrated to me, particularly during my residence at the Infirmary. Thus it occasionally happened that a patient presenting himself with abscess forming internally, as *psoas* or *lumbar abscess*, was turned over by the surgeon, in the first instance, to the physician, as a *rheumatic affection*, and as this disease is ordinarily slow in its progress, the same patient, not satisfied, presented himself under a fresh physician, under both of whom he became extremely debilitated by *sudorifics*, &c. and low regimen, till at last the abscess, shewing itself externally, he became ultimately a surgeon's patient, or jointly between the two. I could enumerate various instances of similar error, as in affections of the urinary passages—viz. *Stone*, mistaken for gravel, or some other affection. Likewise in the instance of *stricture*, *caruncles*, &c. having been presented to the physician; *strangulated hernia*, likewise (particularly in females) mistaken for, and treated merely as constipation or obstruction in the bowels—so much for one side of the question. On the other side, *first*, such complex cases are not of ordinary occurrence; and it must be allowed that in a few instances the physician has discrimination enough to discover the existence of such *complicated cases* before alluded to, though destitute of the knowledge of treating them; the use of this knowledge is, to take a surgeon in concert with him; both together, it must be admitted, as I have before stated, probably inadequate to the *best* mode of treatment.—*Secondly*, the improbability, and rare instances which could occur, of

the individual practitioner *reaching* that perfection in each of the professions possessed by the separate practitioners: this, though possible, would so rarely occur, that, *upon the whole*, I am convinced that the practice of both professions, by one professional person, if *generally* adopted, would not be so serviceable, notwithstanding the imperfections I have stated, which do exist, and I apprehend ever will exist in the professions practised *separately**.

With respect to the premature, inexperienced state in which a *graduated physician* enters upon practice comparatively with the *young surgeon*, it is truly to be deplored by an intelligent *surgeon-apothecary* of even moderate standing in practice; his knowledge at that time with respect to practice is little more than the *names* of diseases and medicines; and the real fact is, that they *begin* and *proceed* in experience for several years, though their patients are unconscious of it, at the expense of the pocket, and, what is worse, the *health* of their patients. The young surgeon enters upon *his* practice far better prepared, provided he has served, previously to *finishing* his professional education, an apprenticeship under an hospital surgeon; but it unfortunately happens, that gentlemen of this profession entertain a strong predilection for medicine, which occasionally carries them beyond the limits which really belong, or are attached to *their* profession. The knowledge of medical diseases, under all their modifications and appendages, and the proper treatment of them, is far beyond the reach of a regular bred surgeon to acquire, however high he may stand in his legitimate profession, to which he was originally trained and destined for.

In short, it is contrary to reason to suppose that the two professions can be *ordinarily* consolidated with advantage in an individual, in each of which the most intelligent and experienced practitioner has, in his *own department* exclusively, ever something—yea, even much to learn, especially when we add *operative surgery*, which obviously cannot, in the practice of ordinary surgery, be separated from it.

Were it feasible, I could wish the professions divided in practice thus: 1st. Physic and surgery (ordinary) taught and practised *jointly* by one individual: 2dly. *Operative surgery* by another individual: 3dly. *Pharmacy* by a third class of individuals: and 4thly. The vender of drugs and chemicals confined to his department.

Perfection in the healing art, so far as it is attainable, I am well assured is no otherwise to be effected than by a *consolidation* of the two professions of physic and surgery in *one*; but likewise, I am well assured that the obstacles to such perfection are too great, upon *a general scale*, to be surmounted, the subject embracing too much for *ordinary* attainment.

It certainly is an unquestionable axiom that dividing any extensive complicated science into *distinct departments*, provided it admit of it, a greater facility will be afforded towards obtaining perfection in each. The healing art, it is true, is divided, *in the main*, into two

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* Hence in large towns, as *London*, &c. I think a *separation* of the two professions upon a *general scale*, is the *lesser* evil of the two.

branches, viz. *physic* and *surgery;* but there is, moreover, such an intimate connexion between them, in certain points, as before stated, that unless a practitioner has a clear comprehension and knowledge of *both* those branches, he is not qualified, in every instance, to do his patient justice; nor can *his place* be *completely* supplied by the joint efforts of the two separate practitioners. Hence *perfection* in practice certainly is not to be obtained under such separation, but the *main parts* of each branch will be better understood and practised, and receive progressive improvement, beyond that which would ensue from the *consolidation* of them, provided that were *generally adopted:* should we, in the latter instance, have possessed the valuable works of a SYDENHAM or a CULLEN, &c. or of a HEISTER and a POTT, &c.? It is very unfortunate for the advancement of *physic*, that its professors (physicians) have not the same advantages that the professors (barristers) of the *law* have—the opportunity of improvement by attendance, in association with the elder and more experienced, *after* their admission into practice. This is an advantage which the *apothecary*, or *surgeon-apothecary*, possesses, and profits by. The real fact is, if the young physician be wise, he improves himself in practice (the *discrimination of diseases*, the *treatment*, and *prognostic*), by attendance *with* the older and more experienced apothecary or surgeon-apothecary.

Regular-bred surgeons, I am aware, entertain a kind of contempt for physicians, and confidently believe that the province of the physician may easily be acquired and attached to their own profession. In this, I well know, they are most egregiously mistaken, notwithstanding the confidence some persons may place in them. A regular-bred surgeon is no more to be transformed or modified into an EFFICIENT physician than, *vice versa*, a regular-bred physician into a surgeon. The rudiments of each profession must commence, and the progress go on, *together*, in order to obtain useful knowledge in *both*.

I shall close these remarks with the following observation. Some professional persons assert, that "even *at this time* the profession or knowledge of physic is in its *infancy*." I would reply to them, "it is not thus; but that *they* who assert it are *infants* in the knowledge of it." The limits or boundaries to which the power of medicine over disease is, in certain points, confined, *my* experience has as thoroughly convinced me of, as the boundary or limits of certain other *physical powers* in nature are: thus, there are certain *organic* or *constitutional affections* which ever were, and, I have no doubt, ever will remain, beyond the reach of the *medical art* to remove.

On the other hand, there are certain other affections, which I would distinguish from the above, as arising merely from *derangement* of the natural functions of life. These are, and ever will be, so diversified by various circumstances, as *ever* to furnish ample subject-matter for useful investigation and improvement in the science or art of *medicine*.

I am, Sirs, with respect,
Your obedient Servant,
RICHARD WALKER.

Oxford,
June 13th, 1820.

THE MINERAL WATERS OF CHELTENHAM. — Dr. Neale, of Cheltenham, has lately published a Letter to a Professor of Medicine in the University of Edinburgh, on the Nature and Properties of these Waters, the principal object of which appears to be "to warn those invalids against a blind confidence in an equivocal remedy; because they believe it to be a *natural* one." The *modern* custom of transferring mineral waters to cisterns, instead of drawing them *fresh* from the well and delivering them to the invalid in a natural state, the doctor very properly condemns. "If we expect," says he, "any benefit to be derived from the gases which they contain, we must relinquish all hopes of retaining them after having been so treated." If an impregnation of certain gases be a matter of indifference, invalids need not undertake long and expensive journeys to mineral springs, since they can be furnished with salts, a weak solution of which is similar to the *racked* mineral waters.

For many years after the reputation of the Cheltenham mineral water was established in this country, as an aperient in affections of the liver, stomach, &c. there was but one well, which is now known by the name of "*The Old Well.*" Such has been the *spirit of trade* in this fashionable retreat, or, as Dr. Neale observes, of *competition* and *manœuvring*, that there are now three saline aperient and three chalybeate spas!!

"The waters of some of these, are so essentially different, and inferior both in qualities and power, that such of the visiters as follow more the caprices of fashion than the dictates of reason, and repair to these new wells instead of the *old* one, after some weeks residence, and ringing out all the changes upon them (for by the way, observes the Doctor, I should tell you, that they have been numbered *one, two, three, four, five, and six,* as if they were a set of musical bells to jingle in the ears of the public rather than cure their diseases;) many of these visiters, the Doctor asserts, to his own knowledge, returned to their homes in distant counties, with their health but little improved, and their faith most miserably shaken as to the virtues and efficacy of the Cheltenham waters. Yet, upon making accurate inquiries, he has frequently found, that most of those disappointed invalids had drank of every water but the real one, and that very few had ever repaired to the *original* fountain. So that, like some of the unfortunate heroes of the Iliad, recorded by the poet, they had indeed seen the plains of Troy, but had never tasted of the waters of the Xanthus."

To render this fact more evident, the Doctor has introduced the following comparative view of the analysis of the original spa water and the Montpelier spa, as ascertained by the late Dr. Fothergill, Dr. Jameson, and others. The Doctor's modesty would not allow him to publish his own analysis in opposition to such great authorities, and he adds, even if he distrusted the accuracy of their statements, "he should prefer using them on this occasion, to referring to his own notes, for *several obvious* reasons."

Original Spa Water, One Pint.	Grains.	*Montpelier Spa,* No. 1. One Pint.	Grains.
Sulphate of Soda . . . } Sulphate of Magnesia . . }	60,0	Sulphate of Soda . 22,7 } Sulphate of Magnesia 6,0 }	28,7
Iron	6	Soda and Iron Carbonates .	1,5
Muriate of Soda	6	Muriate of Soda	41,3
Sulphate of Lime	5,0	Sulphate of Lime	2,5
Carbon. & Muriate of Mag.	3,1		
	69,3		74,0
GASEOUS CONTENTS.	Cubic Inches.	GASEOUS CONTENTS.	Cubic Inches.
Carbonic Acid	3,7	Carbonic Acid	2,5
Sulphuretted Hydrogen . .	1,8		
	5,5		

"From the above tables, you will observe," says Doctor Neale, "that the Montpelier spring differs most materially from the *original* well. The quantity of aperient salts, which it holds, being not one half of what is kept in solution by the *old* spa, while the proportion of muriate of soda, or common sea salt, is *forty times greater!* But the muriate of soda does *not* act on the bowels. To produce the same effect, therefore, it is necessary to take at least double the quantity of the water of the Montpelier spring; while in doing so the drinker must, of necessity, at the same time, swallow *eighty times as much common salt!!* Therefore the stimulating or heating quality of these two springs may be stated as nearly eighty to one; while it should not be forgotten that the stomach must be twice as much distended, before the aperient effect can be produced by the new spa water.

"There being, then, such a glaring difference between these two waters, it must doubtless appear very astonishing to you, that none of the medical men, residing here for years, should have publicly noticed and commented upon the fact. However, if you will reflect for a moment, you will be aware that, in our profession, those at the head of it have generally but little time, and far less taste, for controversial statements, so that, either from *want of taste, or of courage, or from self-interest alone*, such ungrateful tasks are generally left to any casual labourer in the vineyard, who, like myself, may choose to take them up from a pure love of truth."

The Doctor adds Mr. Brande's analysis of the other Montpelier springs, to prove that the waters of *all* contain a redundancy of sea salt, except one, which, by way of distinction, is denominated No. 5.

The invalids who resort to Cheltenham, are chiefly those who have suffered from a long residence in a warm climate, and whose livers, stomachs, or intestines, have been injured by the influence of fevers and tropical heat, and people from different parts of the United Kingdom, particularly Ireland, whose viscera have suffered from the excessive stimulation of spirits, &c. &c. In neither of

these classes of patients, according to the Doctor's experience, does a water containing muriate of soda *in excess*, produce beneficial effects! The Doctor, indeed, decidedly asserts, "that in both, a tendency in the *blood vessels* to be *rapidly* and greatly excited into inordinate action, and many a *torpid* liver, which might have remained for years in a quiescent state, comparatively harmless to its possessor, has been *speedily* thrown into violent inflammatory action, succeeded by suppuration, and the patient been hurried into the grave sooner by some years than would have happened, had he not been put upon a course of these *stimulating* waters. If this be sometimes their effect, in cases of diseased liver, you can easily conceive," says the Doctor, "that the consequences are frequently more rapidly fatal in those plethoric subjects, with *large heads* and *short necks*, who are, by *nature* and *habit*, prone to apoplectic attacks; and, as one instance, I may mention, that, only last year, I well remember a gentleman of this description, who had prescribed for himself four half-pint *glasses of one of the springs every morning*, and who, during the HOT weather, having taken his usual allowance, which did not pass off by the bowels, was so *stimulated* and *oppressed* by it, that he tumbled down in an apoplectic fit, *after* breakfast, and EXPIRED!!!" Another circumstance the Doctor remembers, is, that in their *clumsy* attempts to render some of these waters more aperient, the MIXERS of the waters appear to have no fixed rule, nor measure, in adding "*the saline solution;*" so that some of his patients, last autumn, complained that "they never could discover the *same taste or effect, for any two days together*, in the water which was *handed* to them. But this," says the Doctor, "can *hardly* occur at the *old* well, *because* the quantity of aperient salts contained in these waters is, in general, quite adequate to produce the effect required on the bowels; I say *in general*, because extreme cases will certainly occur of very *torpid* bowels, where some aid will be found requisite, and I always recommend such patients to see the *solution* of GLAUBER'S salt measured out, and added to the tumbler in their own presence!!!"

The assertion that the muriate of soda (the common or sea salt) does not act on the *bowels*, is not correct. That it is more stimulating (to the stomach) than Glauber's salt (the sulphate of soda) or the Epsom salt (the sulphate of magnesia), we allow; but we contend, that in the quantity of half an ounce dissolved in half a pint of water, in case it should not excite vomiting, it will act as an aperient as powerfully as the same quantity of Glauber's salt. The addition of the muriate of soda to a solution of the sulphates of soda and magnesia, so far increases their aperient effects, that a combination of two drachms of each of the former, with half a drachm of the latter, will act as powerfully on the intestines as double the quantity of the sulphates without the muriate. Is it possible that the Doctor should have sailed so many hundred miles over the sea without having ascertained the aperient quality of its water? As the Doctor acknowledges that he has made notes of his chemical examinations of the different mineral waters of Cheltenham, we beg to ask him as a *chemist*, if a water in a native state can contain *sulphate* of soda, *muriate* of soda, *sulphate* of magnesia, and *sulphate* of lime.

Will he state as a physician, acquainted with chemistry, that in a state *of solution*, these combinations will exist? If the *muriate* of soda, *sulphate* of soda, and *sulphate* of magnesia be dissolved in water, will not the sulphate of magnesia be decomposed by the sulphuric acid uniting with the soda, to which it has a greater affinity than to magnesia? and will not the muriatic acid separated from the soda attract the magnesia, and form a muriate of magnesia? Now, if this be a fact (which no chemist will deny) the Doctor's observations on the products from evaporation and order of crystallization, are not applicable to the *native* mineral waters. With respect to the effects of an excess of muriate of soda, on an indolent liver, we assert, in contradiction to the Doctor's positive declaration, that it is more likely to prove beneficial than injurious. The idea of converting an *indolent* disease into an active one is extreme nonsense. When a viscus is morbidly torpid or indolent, the object of practice is assuredly to stimulate it, in order that it may perform its functions in the animal economy, and prevent that deposit which, in consequence of languid circulation, takes place in its cellular substance or parenchyma, and when a deposit has taken place to promote its absorption. It is in such cases that the Leamington mineral water, which really contains a great proportion of muriate of soda, has proved more beneficial than any of the Cheltenham waters (*artificial* or *native*) and to illustrate this assertion we might here introduce the cases of many invalids from the East and West Indies, who, after having given the Cheltenham waters a long trial, were restored to perfect health by taking the Leamington water. In cases of morbid excitement of the substance of the liver, or its peritoneal covering, (a complaint much more frequent than diseased structure of the liver) a water containing an excess of muriate of soda is very improper. In such complaints likewise, a water impregnated with iron would prove injurious; but in the examinations of *all* the aperient mineral waters of Cheltenham we have repeatedly made, we have not been able to discover any trace of iron, and we are therefore disposed to think that those who have analyzed the waters since Dr. Fothergill published his analysis of them, have not taken sufficient pains to ascertain the fact. With respect to Dr. Neale's opinion, that the muriate of soda, by stimulating the stomach, may, under certain circumstances, produce apoplexy, we beg to ask him, if such a stimulus applied to the stomach is not more likely to produce a determination of blood to the viscera of the abdomen than to the head, and that in case the blood vessels of the brain be in a plethoric state, is not such a remedy more likely to afford relief than otherwise? We have repeatedly experienced considerable confusion of head and dimness of sight, after taking a full draught of the Cheltenham saline water at the spring, and of these effects we have heard frequent complaints. We attributed them to its gaseous contents, to rising before our usual time, and especially to walking before breakfast during warm weather, or in the glare of the sun. Dr. Neale more than insinuates, that the *variety* of the mineral waters of Cheltenham may be attributed to *management* and *manœuvring*. With the view of elucidating his mystic expression on this subject, he gives a correspondence which

lately took place between himself and an old school-fellow in Scotland. To his friend's letter, in which he very feelingly complains of his mineral springs in Scotland being deserted, he makes the following answer, which some of our worthy *friends* in Cheltenham will no doubt think too explanatory.

"MY DEAR FRIEND,—I cannot but rejoice that it is really in my power to answer your letter so speedily, and put you in possession of all that information which you desire, on a subject which, I am free to confess, I feel must be of *vast* importance for you to know; while, at the same time, I am patriot enough to think that, in giving it publicity, it may eventually tend to diminish the number of Scottish absentees, and detain in our poor country some thousands of pounds annually, which would otherwise find their way to this richer portion of the island. You have indeed been rightly informed, that our southern neighbours do possess a *secret* manner of adding to the strength of their mineral waters, and thereby reaping a rich harvest from the credulity of their visiters; and if you, or your tenant, can *screw up your conscience to employ the same means*, which, however, I cannot say I think to be very legitimate, you may certainly put in your claim to retain your old customers of the spas of Benbibere.

"Know, then, my good friend, that your first business must be to procure a few tons of Glauber's and Epsom salts from the nearest manufactory, where they will cost you at the rate of about fourteen pounds sterling per ton (three halfpence a pound); which accomplished, you must next endeavour to procure a constant supply of the pure element from some rapid torrent or deep well—be it mineral water or not—for that is of little moment; you must then fill a few quart bottles with your spa waters, and salt them to *your taste*, as Mrs. Glasse would say, but of various strengths, remember; and having duly sealed them up, send them to the chemist of the greatest repute in your part of the world, to be analyzed. These bottles you had better number one, two, three, four, five, and six, *ad libitum;* but I should suppose you need hardly extend it to the Pythagorean number, "*seven*," as *six* will be quite sufficient for all your hydraulic purposes. This done, and your analysis having been returned, duly signed, sealed, and delivered, you must next look out for some complaisant Editor of a Monthly Journal, *Philosophical*, Literary, or Medical, to insert these Analytical Essays, with some enticing preface; as, for instance, 'We congratulate the public on the great discovery lately made on the lands of Mr. Macd——e, of a rich variety of mineral waters, whereby those who repair to the fountains of Benbibere, may henceforth be accommodated with all sorts of waters, saline, aperient, chalybeate, or sulphurous, according to their several fancies and necessities.' A spacious pump room, of the form and dimensions of a Greek temple, must next be built; beneath the flooring of which you must excavate several tanks, which are to be filled every night, by means of leaden pipes, laid under ground all the way from your well or fountain head, where you BREW the different mineral waters. And, lastly, to prevent the prying curiosity of your visiters, you must not neglect to build a sort of pigeon house, or Martello tower, over your fountain head, large enough to contain a stout

forcing pump, and a large trough for your Glauber and Epsom salts, a few barrels of which you can stow there for use upon all occasions. This Martello tower you must place at some distance in the rear, and let a lawn, or hedge, or paling, intervene; clap a cannon on the top of it, to repel invaders; or, if you are afraid of using powder and shot against the king's lieges, thatch it well at top, to conceal its importance, and stick upon it a board, painted to this effect, 'Take notice, that this is *no thoroughfare*, but a private road only, to *Hoax-hall* farm; and whoever trespasses on this ground shall be prosecuted according to law.'

"All around your pump room you must lay out plantations and walks, with shady trees and flowering shrubs, and, having procured a band of pipers and fiddlers with bass drums, &c. (to play the tunes of Rogues all, &c.) to amuse your visiters while your waters are stirring up their great and small intestines, you may throw open the doors of your pump room to all hypochondriacs, and *true* believers, who will assuredly flock by hundreds, and tens of hundreds, to the new spas of Benbibere, to seek the Goddess of Health, a statue of whom, for the sake of *classical* allusion, you should place over the pump room, with a Latin motto beneath, from one of the old poets, as, for instance—'*Utilis alvo fluit, utilisque crumenæ;*' or, in plain English, I hope this will be as good for your bowels as it will be to my purse. I must not omit to mention that the water, as required, must be forced from the tanks beneath by a pump, to pour it into small troughs some feet above the flooring, from whence it must descend in syphons, terminating in crystal stop cocks. This will make it hiss and sparkle in the cup, to the admiration of the drinkers, so as to deceive them with the appearance of strong gaseous impregnation, just as a knowing waiter plays off his stalest table-beer, by pouring it from a flaggon elevated over his head. One thing more you must not forget, which is, to have some of your water heated in coppers behind the pump room, to mix up and take off the chill from the cold waters, for the sake of your more delicate female visitants.

"When you have succeeded in bringing the spas of Benbibere into full fashion, you may then build a manufactory for the preparation of salts from your own springs. For this purpose, you must lay in a proper store of Glauber and Epsom salts, together with a quantity of Sal Polychrest (the salt of many virtues, of the old chemists), the sulphate of potash of the moderns; not, indeed, that this was ever yet found in a mineral water since the days of the deluge, but it has this good and notable quality, that it communicates a solidity and most singular form of crystallization to your salts, which cannot be attained by any other mode; and which serves to puzzle all the apothecaries at home and abroad, who will never dream of finding *vegetable* alkali in the products from a *mineral* water. And, besides, you may then persuade the world that the salts from your wells are of so marvellous a nature, that you are warranted in charging them at about thirty times their real value; and thus you will obtain eight or ten shillings per pound for *that* salt which any of the manufacturing chemists of Wolverhampton will be glad to furnish to you, wholesale, at the rate of twopence. To be brief, the best propor-

tions for your new salt you will find to be, one part of sulphate of potash, six parts of Glauber's salt, and two of Epsom salt, with half a part of sea salt, which last will render it *more palatable.* This compound salt you may dry, and grind, and twist up in all sorts of forms, and denominate "the real Benbibere effloresced, magnesian, chalybeate, alkaline salt." Put it up in strong glass bottles, labelled with directions for use; and be careful not to omit pasting regular stamps over the stoppers, lest the Excise-office should pounce upon you.

"Pursuing these plans, my dear Macd——e, for a few years, you cannot fail to realize a magnificent fortune; and if you can but carry on the farce with due perseverance, and avoid shewing symptoms of fear, whenever you may hear of the sudden deaths of any of your new customers, and not neglect, moreover, to breed up one or two of your sons to be writers to the signet, or attorneys, as we call them here, to threaten with legal actions all those who may venture to write against the *orthodoxy* of your waters, you may, I think, live long enough to buy up the estates of half the spendthrift young lairds of your county. The greatest danger, and indeed almost the only risk that I can anticipate to your plans, is, lest, peradventure, in after years, some saturnine physician of the Scotch school should set himself down, like a plain matter-of-fact man, to practise his profession honestly in your village, when, if he should discover the cunning game you have been so long playing off on the public, and of which he also has been the dupe, then "*the L—d have mercy upon you;*" for I should think it very likely it will fare with you as it did with an impudent fellow in Spain, who employed an ecclesiastic to perform the funeral service of the Catholic church over the carcase of a dead donkey, by telling him he was interring a rich old miller; for the priest, having discovered the imposition, from the impulse of honest indignation, had the hoaxer consigned to the dungeons of the Inquisition, where he soon after died, from being forced to banquet on his own water—a mode of punishment, as you may have heard in Spain, not unknown to that *humane* body, and which, indeed, was threatened against the rebellious Jews in the Old Testament.—Farewell."

In looking into Brande's Chemistry, Dr. Neale was surprised to find that he has only noticed *three* of the mineral waters of Cheltenham, viz. the *sulphur* spring, the *pure saline*, and the *chalybeate.* Having passed over the others, the Doctor inquires if the public are to conclude that Mr. Brande disbelieves the existence of the other three. Mr. Brande has also neglected to notice the water of the old spring, of which the late Dr. Fothergill published an analysis, and which Dr. Neale considers of more value than *all* the rest. The reason of this silence we have already explained. In an early number the Doctor will find an analysis of some of the mineral waters of Cheltenham, with an exposure of the traffic in salts. To counteract the effects of our exposition of facts, Mr. Brande was employed to analyze on the spot certain waters and to superintend the manufactory of salts; and if we were to judge from the flaming account of the waters, the laboratory, &c. &c. which appeared

in the Quarterly Journal of *science*, &c. we should conclude that the RESULT was perfectly satisfactory to both. Now had the proprietor of the old well been at the same expense, he would have had no reason to complain of his well having been neglected.

The sinking of new wells became necessary in consequence of the old well not affording a sufficient supply of a saline water for all the applicants. Before the Montpelier wells were made, the water of the old well was often so exhausted, that we have known it to be shut up for two or three days at a time. At that period the art of manufacturing saline waters, or of assisting Nature in her subterraneous operations, was not so generally known or practised as at the present day. To prevent as much as possible a scarcity of saline water during the season, the proprietor manufactured the salt only in winter, when the demand for the water was very trifling. We agree with Dr. Neale that the water of the old well is genuine, and as it brought the place into repute, he may, with some degree of propriety, give it the preference, when it is not weakened by the quantity which is daily consumed. The soil throughout Gloucestershire is very productive of saline water: in Newent and its neighbourhood the saline water is more strongly impregnated with sulphur than any saline aperient water of Cheltenham, and therefore, as an *alterative* aperient, is very superior; and in cases of chronic affections of the skin, we would give it a most decided preference. In cases of gout and chronic rheumatism, attended with an indolent state of the bowels, it is also a valuable remedy.

Since the preceding obvervations were printed, we have received a copy of a pamphlet published in Cheltenham under the title of Facts *versus* Assertion, or critical and explanatory Observations on some erroneous Statements contained in Dr. Neale's pamphlet, and of several papers which have been industriously circulated in Cheltenham, by which it appears that the bold insinuations of Dr. Neale have excited the indignation of the proprietors of the different spas, and of the most respectable inhabitants of the town.

The extracts from Dr. Neale's work, which have already appeared in many of the daily and weekly papers of the metropolis, conveying an idea that the waters of Cheltenham are not all natural products, are certainly very likely to operate greatly to the disadvantage of Cheltenham. When we were at Cheltenham about three years ago, we examined the waters of all the wells; and it is due to Mr. Thompson, the proprietor of the Montpelier Wells, and to Captain Harris, of the Old Well, to say that they were desirous to give us every opportunity of obtaining the information we were in search of; and the results of our experiments and observations convinced us most satisfactorily that *all* the waters were natural products, and of course that the assertions we had so often heard made, viz. that some waters were artificial and the activity of others was increased by artificial means, were without the slightest foundation. We disagreed in opinion with Mr. Thompson, that a solution of his Cheltenham salts contained all the medical virtues of the native water; the one sold under the name of the chalybeate aperient being, in fact, nothing more than the sulphate of soda (Glauber's salt); but we did not mean to insinuate that he did

not procure it from the water. The salts sold by Captain Mathews of the Old Well, were exactly similar to Mr. Thompson's Those sold by Mr. Thompson were obtained from the water of one well, and by selling them as they formed in the order of crystallization under different names, it must be obvious that the solution of any one of them could not possess *all* the medicinal properties of the water. If Mr. Thompson had mixed all the salts together which he obtained, he might have stated, with some degree of truth, that a solution of them would be very similar to the water of the well. Some months ago we analyzed the waters of the Sherborne Spa, and from its carbonates, or rather supercarbonates, they were evidently *native* products, and from the proportions of the different salts they produced, we have no hesitation in asserting that they are superior to many, and inferior to none that has hitherto been found in Cheltenham or any other part of this country. Dr. Neale has been driven to admit that his publication was hasty and indiscreet. It also appears evident, by the declaration of Captain Mathews and Captain Smyth (the doctor's friend), that the doctor was either directly or indirectly interested in puffing off the *Old Well.*

Doctor Neale is evidently in a dilemma, from which, we suspect, all his ingenuity and skill, even with the aid he may receive from Edinburgh, or a certain apothecary of Devonshire, of onion test notoriety, he will not be able to extricate himself, with the character of a sound and considerate physician. We wish him, however, a happy deliverance.

LACERATED WOUNDS, &c.—Sirs,—Being early in life bred to the medical profession, but by adverse circumstances driven from it, and obliged to gain my living in humble and various ways, I have had a wide field for observation, in various situations, as sailor and soldier in every country and climate. Sixteen years ago Admiral Sir Isaac Coffin (then commissioner at Sheerness), formerly knowing me on board the Shrewsbury, of 74 guns, in the West Indies, finding my health very much impaired, but my stamina not wholly gone, got me into the dock yard, where I had been only a few weeks, when I received a most dreadful lacerated wound in my leg, which in my own *then* opinion at the moment, I thought ought to lead to amputation; but fortunately Dr. White, then surgeon of the yard, thought differently, and saved my limb, if not my life. The mode he adopted and pursued, and which he has uniformly done in hundreds of other equally desperate cases, was, after bringing the parts as nicely together as possible, he applied over the whole dressings, which was strong adhesive plaster, compresses of coarse sponge, old linen only wrung out of cold water (no saturnine solutions), renewed whenever heat began to produce too quick a degree of evaporation, and so continued it for days; thus by the cold and keeping the parts by the moisture from getting tense or tumefied, or enlarging the surface of the wounded parts in my own case, and in innumerable others of the most formidable and terrific kind, constantly occurring in great works like a dock yard, I have seen the most happy results. Further, I have observed, in the practice of this *thinking* and judicious gentleman, the advantage of the cold over stimulating means, in destruction of parts from scalds and burns. I once saw a man brought to the surgery with both his legs equally and most dreadfully scalded by slipping

into the kiln, in which timber is boiled and steamed for bending round the bow of ships. One leg was immediately put into a bucket of cold water, and the other rolled in cloths wetted with spirit of turpentine, and the plan continued unremittingly till the advantage of the cooling one was so evident, that they would admit of no comparison. I give this case, though many other equally conclusive may be given, and which I have myself witnessed. The cold water plan, by preventing heat and inflammation, never admitted of a great discharge, and uniformly keeping the cicatrices much smaller than in those where turpentine, various spirits, ether, &c. were had recourse to. If these remarks should appear to you as worthy of a place in your Gazette of Health, which has proved an useful work to me and a thousand others, you shall again have the result of sixteen years observation from an humble being in a dock-yard, but who early in life, was patronised by Mr. John Hunter and Mr. Sheldon, men justly eminent in their profession

Chatham Dock yard, May 17, 1820.

NERVOUS DEBILITY.—Sirs,—I beg leave to communicate a peculiarly interesting case, where the application of electricity, in conjunction with oxygen gas, were the means of restoring a young gentleman to health after every other means had failed, though tried under the superintendence of some of the highest professional characters in this kingdom. Should you favour me by the insertion of it in the Gazette of Health, any of your readers who may wish to be more particularly informed relative to this case, or see the gentleman, I shall be most happy to communicate with them, by appointment. The Gentleman authorizes me to say, that it will afford him infinite pleasure in thus probably being the means of rendering essential and permanent benefit to those who may be affected in a similar way to what he was.

I am, Sirs, your most obedient humble Servant,

Electrical and Pneumatic Institution, J. PRICE,
Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, Surgeon, Electrician, &c.
June 20th, 1820.

Mr. ———, a young gentleman 23 years of age, consulted me upon the propriety of his inhaling oxygen gas as the last resource, conceiving, that if he should not derive benefit from its use, in conjunction with the application of galvanism, that nothing could be done for him, as he was tired of taking medicine, in which he had persevered for nearly three years, agreeably to the prescriptions he had received from some of the most eminent practitioners in this metropolis. Independent of the immense expense of fees and medicines, he had to regret that he derived no benefit whatever; but continued declining in health, and had become so emaciated that his friends apprehended his being in a decline. He laboured under extreme nervous debility; the functions of the chylopoietic viscera were very much deranged; the bowels so constipated that ordinary purgations had no effect; but by repetition of an increased quantity, an evacuation was occasionally effected by this means, but which increased his weakness; and his feelings were so extremely affected, that at last it was deemed prudent by his medical advisers to have recourse to clysters daily, which, if he neglected for one day, he became distress-

ingly uncomfortable. He had tried the effect of a course of the blue pill, and had taken calomel, neither of which had any effect in exciting a proper action of the bowels. He not only complained of general debility (so much so that he could not walk a quarter of a mile without feeling the greatest fatigue), but also the usual symptoms of a derangement of the digestive organs; aversion to motion; spirits very much depressed; sense of oppression and sinking; sallow countenance; disturbed sleep, &c. As he proposed to try galvanism, I made no objection, conceiving it probable that that species of electricity, if judiciously applied, might invigorate the nervous system and the secretory organs. Some of my patients (whom he met when he attended to inhale the gas) having acquainted him with the benefit they had derived from electricity, under somewhat similar circumstances, though not so aggravated or of so long standing, he determined to give it a trial. I commenced the application of it about the middle of February last, and repeated it daily for three weeks, inhaling also two gallons of oxygen gas, then every second day for three weeks. The application was afterwards repeated every third or fourth day till the 22d of April, when it was discontinued (the gas was inhaled for seven weeks); his health was then materially restored, the bowels evacuating regularly (the use of enemas was discontinued in a week after the first application of electricity). He progressively improved in health, and recovered his flesh so rapidly, that on each visit latterly, it appeared the more evident. Those friends who had not seen him from the commencement of his attendance on me, expressed their astonishment at his restoration to health, when they rather expected to have heard of his decease.

INCONTINENCE OF URINE.—SIRS,—No complaint is, I believe, less under the influence of medicine than the involuntary escape of the urine in elderly people, or more distressing to a patient of delicate feelings. The cause, in young subjects, is generally, I believe, morbid irritability of the bladder, not allowing of its due expansion; but in elderly people the disease arises from an opposite state of the muscular fibres, allowing the urine to escape without any propelling power, the sphincter muscle having lost its power of action. For this disease tincture of cantharides is the remedy of routine practitioners, but in all the cases in which I have administered it, it has failed to afford the slightest relief. The vegetable and mineral astringents are the remedies which in my practice have succeeded best. To these a blister over the sacrum, or application of electric sparks, by stimulating the nerves leading to the bladder, is a very powerful auxiliary. The cause, however, of the disease, and many others of the same nature in the bowels, is in elderly people often the effect of compression of brain from over distention of blood vessels, probably, as your intelligent correspondent, *Chiromedicus* observes, of the sinuses. When this is the case, astringents, by constipating the bowels, and electricity, by increasing the determination of blood to the brain, (an invariable effect, although applied to a remote part of the body) may be productive of mischief within the head. The composition of astringents I have found most beneficial in cases of the incontinence of urine of elderly people, when the cause is local, is the following:—

Take of Tincture of Catechu, one ounce;
Compound Spirit of Ammonia, half an ounce.
Ditto Tincture of Rhatany, one ounce.

Mix.—Two teaspoonsful to be taken three times a day, in a quarter of a pint of alum whey, made by boiling a drachm of alum in a pint of milk. I am also in the habit of prescribing four grains of the blue pill to be taken every night for the space of ten days, with such addition of rhubarb powder as the state of the bowels may render necessary, i. e. to procure one proper evacuation daily. I beg you will consider this communication as a proof of my desire to promote the laudable object of your valuable publication.

London, I am, Sirs, your very obedient Servant,
June 12, 1820. J. R. JACKSON, M. D.

BOTTLED BEER.—Sirs,—The object of your very interesting work being to communicate to the public useful information, I send you the method employed in this metropolis by some venders of bottled beer, to render it what they term ripe.—It is merely adding to each bottle three or four drops of yeast, and a lump of sugar, of the size of a large nutmeg. In the course of twenty-four hours, by this addition, stale or flat beer is rendered most agreeably brisk. In consequence of the fermentative process that takes place in it, a small deposit takes place, and on this account the bottles should be kept in an erect position. By this means white wine may also be rendered brisk. If you deem this communication worthy of insertion in your very much esteemed Miscellany, by the leading medical and philosophical characters in this country, I shall occasionally become a correspondent. I am, Sirs,

Rue de Paix, Paris, Your constant Reader,
March 7th, 1820. J. P. VINCENT, C. B.

MUSTY CASKS, &c.—Sirs,—The following method of rendering musty casks or bottles sweet, I have found to succeed so completely, that I am induced to send it to you for publication, in your very useful work, the Monthly Gazette of Health.

Mix half a pint of the sulphuric acid (not the diluted) in an open vessel, with a quart of water, and whilst warm put it into the cask, and roll it about in such a manner that the whole internal surface may be exposed to its action. The following day add about one pound of chalk, and bung it up for three or four days, when it may be washed out with boiling water. By this process a very musty cask may be rendered sweet. For sweetening musty bottles it will be only necessary to rinse the inside with the diluted sulphuric acid in the proportions mentioned above. The addition of chalk, if it were immediately corked, would burst the bottle, and if a cask be old, it would be advisable to let some of the gas escape before bunging it. The strong vitriolic acid being charged at a most extravagant price by some chemists, I beg to add, that for the best I pay only sixpence a pound. I am, Sirs, your grateful subscriber,

Bristol, June 2d, 1820. THOMAS JAMES.

ADVERTISERS OF SUPERIOR ADVICE.—Sirs,—On the cover of the last number of your most useful Publication, the following question appears—Who are Messrs. Goss and Co. of Bouverie Street, *Surgeons* of advertising notoriety? The conductor of this

concern is a Mr. Crucifix, who was formerly a shopman to a Mr. James, alias Mr. Clive. This *gentleman* is the only medical adviser belonging to it. It has been a productive speculation, but at present, it, as well as others, is suffering from your publication. *Their* advertisements are less frequently inserted, and Mr. Crucifix seems to have much leisure time for contemplation and study.

Having answered this query, I hope you will allow me to ask you, what possible good can arise from the expositions you are making of the traffic of medicine. Really, Sirs, it appears to me, that their advertisements exhibit much ingenuity, and afford great consolation to a set of unhappy wretches. To amuse the mind of restless hypochondriacs is surely most praiseworthy. It is true that advertisers make extravagant charges for their *superior* advice, but are not their patients of a class, that would have no confidence in their abilities if such charges were not made? Indeed, the patients are of that class, that to deprive them of the means of indulging their vicious propensities, is doing society a service. When servants have accumulated a little property, is it not a fortunate circumstance that they can so satisfactorily get rid of it? A man who had lived with me ten years, having saved about 150 pounds, thought himself a person of consequence. Being desirous to attain a good old age, he applied to an advertiser of a dispensary: in six months he got rid of his money, and his general health was much worse than when he made his first application; the sea air however soon restored him, and having got rid of his money, he became steady and obliging. I therefore contend that those advertising repairers of human frames are serviceable to society, and if many are hurried to their graves by them, what is the loss to the country? When a person turns his mind to medicine, what is he good for? By ridding society of such a pest, the advertiser may be considered a benefactor. Another thing in their favour is, that they contribute towards the support of the state. They pay their share of taxes, and whether their means are honestly obtained or not, government never inquire. The regular and irregular quack contribute in the same proportions towards the expences of the legislature, and the dignity and grandeur of the crown. If Dr. Solomon, of Liverpool, was not a man of science, he was a man of arts, and the wealth he acquired was from a source which would bear reflection. Pray, therefore, Messrs. Editors, do consider the indirect benefit the country derives from these benevolent gentlemen, and do not destroy the confidence of the public in their *professions*.

I am, Sirs,

Your constant reader,

Bouverie Street. THOMAS RAIKES.

HOOPING COUGH.—A medical correspondent informs us, that he has found the following prescription to succeed in several cases of hooping cough, which had resisted the use of other remedies.

Take of Ipecacuan wine, two drachms;
Syrup of White Poppies, two ounces;
Prussic acid, fifteen drops;

To be well mixed.—The dose is from one to two teaspoonsful three or four times a day, either alone or in barley-water. It should be well shaken each time previous to its being poured out.

Of DR. BAIN,

Physician in Ordinary to the King, &c. &c.

HIS eminent Physician and real good man, was born in the neighbourhood of Edinburgh, and had all the advantages of that clas-, medical and philosophical education for which this seat of learn-s so justly celebrated. On finishing his professional education, taking the degree of Doctor of Medicine, he commenced his career ath, a place in which the *guinea* and *draught trades*, and the traffic of ılar and irregular quackery, have been carried on with more ef-tery and success than in any other resort of invalids in this country, ıer Brighton nor Cheltenham excepted. There is, indeed, no ıtion so delicate for the test of the abilities of a physician ath, from the number of competitors with which Doctors have to end, and from the patients being chiefly those who have been under medical treatment, who have, in fact, been under the of many practitioners, and who, during their residence, have else to engage their minds than to swallow a draught and a every three hours, and to listen to the nonsense of a fashion-physician, or the persuasive eloquence of a kind of man-milliner ecary to point out the absolute necessity of persisting in the use dicine, and the declarations of his *sincere* esteem and friendship, h last as long as the invalid consents to take five draughts and ny boluses daily. The patients which resort to this place have divided into two classes, viz. the votaries of fashion, whim and , and real sufferers from constitutional diseases. The first is the most difficult to treat, or rather to please, by a man of e, who cannot so far relax his mind as to listen to nonsense; ith the latter, the most experienced and scientific seldom get credit, particularly in cases of gout, gravel, chronic rheumatism, rn-out constitutions, of which more than one half of the *real* in-s who visit Bath for the re-establishment of health, consists. The ation, therefore, of a Bath physician seldom lasts many years. He erally brought forward by some leading character with great eclat, is advice is often eagerly solicited; but a short trial of his talents him into insignificance. The reason of this rapid advance and e is obvious. In the metropolis, a physician gradually makes xtends his connexion, which, if he be steady, is generally per-nt; but in Bath, the connexion is not fixed to the spot; the nts are chiefly birds of passage, and while there, novelty or the for the day attracts their first attention. Notwithstanding unpropitious circumstances, the subject of this memoir pre-d, during his residence in Bath, a high reputation and respect, id he allow himself to be led astray by an attachment to those ıceful amusements to which many physicians of this fashionable ive way, *i. e.* consuming his midnight hours at the chances and of wealth the gaming tables afford. Such indulgences uni-

formly entail sooner or later irreparable ruin, and the first abilities in this vortex of dissipation have fallen martyrs to its fascinating delusion. Dr. Bain possessed a mind superior to such pursuits. His leading passion was benevolence, and his predominant wish was to improve the healing art, and to discharge the duties of a physician and a Christian. So highly was he esteemed by all who had the honour of his acquaintance that he soon formed a matrimonial connexion which rendered him independent of practice. This change in his fortune did not diminish his attachment to his profession. The practice in Bath being limited, and the company, as we have stated, being of a transient or fugitive kind, he removed to London. His practice here has been confined to the first class, and if not so extensive as that of a Halford or a Baillie, it can boast of the most distinguished characters in rank, literature, science and fashion, as patients. Had the Doctor studied the *modus puffendi*, in which the physicians of the English universities excel, or had had recourse to the artful practices, worming manners, and prejudicing insinuations, of a Blegborough or a Birkbeck, his practice would have been very lucrative, but such means of obtaining patients were repugnant to his feelings. In his intercourse with his professional brethren he displays a degree of candour and liberality which has secured for him the respect and esteem of the most eminent physicians and surgeons of the day. His late appointment of Physician in ordinary to the King was probably in consequence of the high opinion Sir Henry Halford entertained of his professional acquirements and skill. Certain it is, that for this honour he is not indebted to the friendship of pimps, nor to the petticoat influence to which some *Great Physicians* of the present time are not a little indebted. Rarely, indeed, do we hear of a medical man being rewarded by potentates for *superior* merit, but it may be safely affirmed that a favour was never conferred on a professional character more honourable in his principles, more respectable in his scientific attainments, or more correct in his general deportment than on Dr. Bain. In giving a sketch of the leading physicians of this country, we dwell with pleasure on one, who, mild, modest, and unassuming, pursues the even tenor of his way, and whose private worth does not yield to the merit of his public conduct. The Doctor has not been *honoured* with the title of a Baronet, or even a Knight, he has however established a claim to a title far superior to any the greatest potentate can give or assume, a title of which death itself cannot deprive him, viz. that of a *practical* Christian.——The author of an interesting work, lately published, under the title of Authentic Memoirs of the most eminent Physicians and Surgeons of Great Britain, introduces a sketch of Dr. Bain with the following remarks:

"Talents without manners, and merit without address, however they may be resorted to as a matter of necessity, will never be courted nor esteemed. The roughness of a Ratcliffe, and the studied incivility of a Johnson, both exciting disgust, and tolerated with reluctance, throw a shade over that superiority their abilities command, and at least wean from friendship and esteem. In its native state the diamond has no value. It is the polish which gives it brilliance, and

bestows on it general currency and estimation. In like manner, the accomplishments of the gentleman, and the soothing attentions of a feeling mind, when attached to the professional character, inspire a certain confidence and prepossession with the patient, giving to each prescription a magic charm. Such is the respectable individual that now claims our notice, who unites to an elegant and pleasing exterior, all that softened and delicate behaviour, which cannot fail to carry with them hope and consolation wherever he attends."

THEORY OF LIFE.—(*By D. H. Bacon, Esq. of Southampton Row*) *continued from last Number.*—Mr. Abernethy tells us, that the Theory in question, which maintains that life does not depend on organization, has given great offence to those whom he has judged it right to distinguish by the appropriate appellation of "the modern sceptics," and that this important doctrine has been attacked on all sides with great fury. In the language of metaphor, to which he seems extremely partial, he has given us to understand, that these sceptics will not allow the ashes of Mr. Hunter to rest in peace, but that they had obliged him to take the strong arm of the law against his adversaries. No counsel conceiving himself equal to the charge of defending the Theory, Mr. Abernethy, without fee or reward, comes forward as "the voluntary advocate of Hunter." Upon giving swing to his fancy, he believes himself to be in a court of justice, addressing the College of Surgeons as "gentlemen of the jury," to whom, among other things, he says, "think not that pleader-like I wish to bias your judgments; it has been said, this is not on record nor before this court. You know, gentlemen, that the plea of the incompetency of the court is often urged when a party suspects a verdict may be against them. If, however, physiologists be not competent judges of this cause, no writ of *certiorari* to any other tribunal can, I am convinced, with propriety be granted." Although he endeavoured as much as lay in his power to preserve appearances, he could not help occasionally betraying strong symptoms of fear, that he had undertaken a task which he might not be able to perform. The farther he advanced in the discussion, the greater were the difficulties which crowded upon him. His hope on one occasion seemed entirely to fail him, and at last he appeared to become quite desperate. He quarrelled with his brief and threw it aside as worse than useless. Unfortunately for his views of the case, Mr. Hunter states in his Treatise, p. 89, that the principle of life is a motionless matter. Mr. Abernethy found it necessary to adopt the directly opposite position, and declared life to be "a subtile substance of a quickly and powerfully mobile nature." Mr. Hunter also confessed that life was a mere property and not a substance, and in short that life was a thing not to be understood; his precise words on record are, "Life is a property we do not understand: we can only see the leading steps toward it." This acknowledgment on the part of Mr. Hunter, seemed at one blow to overturn the whole edifice of the Theory of Life, it being evident, that to say that life is a property and a thing not to be understood, was in effect to give up the cause as lost beyond the possibility of redemption. Mr. Abernethy therefore judged it proper to declare expressly that life is actually a substance pervading all

nature, and of course pervading all organized bodies, and that so far was it from being a thing not to be understood, he had engaged to prove that it is a well known substance which does not depend on organization. An entire new brief being thus conceived on principles in direct opposition to those laid down by Mr. Hunter, but in terms perfectly accordant with the taste and sentiments of his advocate, we find that the new order of things had the effect to revive the hopes of Mr. Abernethy, and to induce him to return to the charge with fresh vigour and every prospect of success, while at the same time he was not unmindful to throw in those artifices which were necessary to conceal from "the gentlemen of the jury" the liberties he had taken with the brief, and his motives for having had recourse to that unusual measure. Language seems to lose its powers when employed by Mr. Abernethy, in the description he gives of his own Theory of Life; witness the following expressions; and reason will determine whether the words convey the idea of two lives to each structure, or only one life, which he ascribes to organization; "it is not meant to be affirmed that electricity is life; I only mean to argue in favour of Mr. Hunter's theory, by shewing that a subtile substance of a quickly and powerfully mobile nature seems to pervade every thing, and appears to be the life of the world, and that therefore it is probable a similar substance pervades organized bodies and is the life of these bodies." In the first place, a certain substance is said to be the life of organized bodies, consequently the audience will not be disposed to look for any other life, but yet in the second place it is said, that a similar substance is supposed to be the life of organized bodies, which appears to constitute another life, making together two distinct lives, similar to each other, for one individual structure. When however we go to follow up the discussion, only one life, for the sake of simplicity, shall be supposed to have been here meant by Mr. Abernethy. He further says, "I am visionary enough to imagine that if these opinions should become so established as to be generally admitted by philosophers, that if they once saw reason to believe that life was something of an invisible and active nature superadded to organization, they would then see equal reason to believe, that mind might be superadded to life, as life is to structure. They might then still farther perceive how mind and matter might reciprocally operate on each other by means of an intervening substance." Here we find that Mr. Abernethy supposes a human being to consist of three distinct parts; namely, mind, life, and structure; although mankind in general believe that a living human being consists merely of a soul and a body, which are only two parts, instead of three parts, as specified in the theory just described. He commences the investigation by stating the fact, that life is connected with a vast variety of organization, with the addition of these words, "a circumstance from which we may, I think, naturally conclude, that life does not depend on organization." But the natural conclusion might be, on the contrary, that Providence has conferred a peculiar kind of life to every sort of structure, and of course that the life of a human being is materially different from that of any of the inferior animals, there being no ground to suppose that the same kind of life is parcelled out

in common to all structures; consequently the circumstance on which he builds his theory is a mere supposition, and to all appearance a very unnatural conjecture. He then adopts the opinion of life that "it is something that prevents the chemical decomposition to which dead animal and vegetable matter is so prone; that regulates the temperature of the bodies it inhabits, and is the cause of the actions we observe in them." Admitting that these effects are produced, no argument is afforded by them to support the doctrine, that life does not depend on structure, for it might be much more naturally supposed, that they are the joint effects of both life and structure, and not of life individually considered. In like manner the resistance to putrefaction and cold in a living egg, might be the joint effect of life and structure, it being allowed by Mr. Abernethy himself, as before observed, that "there are minute animals, the motions of which are extremely vivacious, and in which all the processes of life are carried on with great celerity and vigour, yet no organization can be detected in them even by the aid of the microscope." In the third place Mr. Abernethy conceives that irritability is the effect of some subtile mobile invisible substance, superadded to the evident structure of muscles, or other forms of vegetable and animal matter, as magnetism is to iron, and that irritability is a proof that life does not depend on organization; still he grounds his Theory on the mere supposition that life is a substance superadded to structure; while it is evidently more natural to conjecture that life and organization constitute a perfect unity to perform its functions through the aid of visible and invisible matter, in a manner as we know life is preserved in the human body by the superaddition of the air and food which are the means of life and not life itself. Mr. Abernethy has thus laboured through a long lecture in the discussion of the Theory of Life, without gaining an inch of ground. Not finding himself prepared to adduce any new fact in support of the cause which he had engaged to advocate, he was obliged to content himself with collecting some of the scattered sparks of Theory which had occasionally escaped from Mr. Hunter, carefully avoiding all those facts which did not accord with the spirit of the new brief. Fortified by these auxiliaries, he ventured to renew the contest in a second lecture before the College, which, as was to be expected, he concluded with no better success. Toward the close of that Lecture, he found himself so much embarrassed that he was compelled to relinquish the undertaking as a hopeless case, and to confess, in plain terms, his total inability to accomplish his object. He saw that it was impossible by any means to perform the promise he had made, that he would convince the College of the truth of the doctrine, that life did not depend on organization. He also saw, that it was equally impossible to shew that his Theory of life was the most probable or the most rational, because he was not in the knowledge of the Theories which others entertained, by which alone a comparison could be made. When he found himself in this predicament, he did not choose to follow the example of those philosophers who are the first to tell the errors they have committed. He preferred having recourse to various pretexts to induce the audience not to look to him but to other quarters for the cause of the

failure. He told them that the forms of his official capacity were not suited to the illustration of points of that description, and tried to convince them that it was utterly impossible, in the compass of a lecture, to review all the phænomena necessary to establish the Theory as a rational Theory. He wished it to be understood, that even a series of lectures, however extended, would prove inadequate to the subject. In short, he has shewn that he would take no further charge of the concern, upon the ground, that the contemplation of the Theory of Life was fitter for meditation in the closet, than for discussion in the Lecture Room. The following is his own laconic account of his defeat. "It has been my object to shew that Mr. Hunter's Theory of Life is a verifiable Theory, and that it affords the most rational explanation of the phænomena of irritability and of those nervous functions that have been considered. It is however impossible in the compass of a lecture, as I have before observed, to review all the phænomena of the nervous functions, which it is necessary to do, in order to establish it as a rational Theory. The contemplation of this subject at large is fitter for meditation in the closet than for discussion in the Lecture Room." Thus he has got entirely rid of the business, giving each individual of the College full liberty to shut himself up in his closet to fabricate any Theory he thinks will best please himself. This measure the lecturer saw at last to be far more wise than that of imposing upon himself the punishment of Sisyphus, of which no doubt in his own opinion he had already got too great a share.

It evidently appears, from the whole of the proceedings of Mr. Abernethy during this arduous contest, that he bears a deadly antipathy at all endeavours to push forward in science; possibly because he finds by experience that he makes a much greater progress in the opposite direction. He slightly makes mention of Sir Isaac Newton, no doubt to lead his audience to think that in spite of his partiality for metaphysics he was an admirer of solid reasoning; but in reality, Lord Bacon and the whole of the new school, Sir Isaac not excepted, he holds in such abhorrence that he made it a point throughout the whole discussion never to allow the name of the great founder of sound philosophy to be once mentioned. As he had waged eternal war with the men of science of the present day, he comforts himself by saying, "I shall glory in entertaining the same opinions as Pythagoras, Plato, Socrates, and a host of others whom I need not mention, have done." It was most natural for him to attach himself to the philosophers of the old school after he had been separated for ever from the disciples of Lord Bacon, especially as he well knew that the ancients have no opportunity of putting it to the vote, whether or not he was a fit person to be received among them.

In the introduction to this paper I promised to take notice of the arguments adduced by three of the prominent characters engaged in the investigation, and it is with some reluctance I am obliged to mention the celebrated name of Mr. Laurence, at the same time I speak of Mr. Abernethy.

Mr. Laurence brought the question within a narrow compass. He kept within his own province, and in the language of true philoso-

phy, related simply what was there to be seen and known. He told his audience that speaking physiologically he could say that life and structure seemed to rise and fall together. Further information he left to the sublime communications of revelation.

Two papers on this subject have come from the pen of the Editor of the Gazette of Health. I am precluded from offering any remarks on the first by the candid and philosophical declarations of the second, wherein he states that Providence has set boundaries to human knowledge, that all our information is derived from the physical world, and that consequently an impenetrable veil is thrown over the nature of the soul, or mind, or life of man.

When Mr. Abernethy found that he had precipitated himself into a situation where the defects of his powers had attracted the notice of the scientific world, the horror of approaching ridicule seems to have suggested to him the necessity of employing some device to give a different course to the public attention. He had already stigmatized his opponents with the appellation of "the modern sceptics," which no doubt was meant to convey the idea of their being the enemies of truth and every thing held sacred among men, but it did not appear enough to shew in what light they were to be considered, for he judged it right to instruct the world in regard to the precise way with which they ought to be treated. He says, "the education and course of life of medical men tend to make them sober-minded, moral, and benevolent, and their professional avocations equally require that they should possess such characters and dispositions. On no other terms can they be admitted with confidence into the bosoms of those families which may require their medical aid." It seems, therefore, he expects that none of his opponents are to be admitted into the bosoms of those families which may stand in want of medical aid. Were his punishment to take effect, it would be an act of humanity to inquire what would become of those families in distress, because there is not a medical man worthy of the name who in that case would be permitted to administer to them advice; but it would appear that rather than Mr. Abernethy should be annoyed by the evils which threaten him, he would be willing they should be all left to their fate. Nothing but necessity could be admitted as an apology for such a measure, but it would be a necessity to which few men would yield, on account of the loss of character with which it is attended. When Mr. Abernethy found that he could make no kind of progress with his subject, he directed his artillery against the persons of his opponents. He seems to have followed the example of Edwards, the opponent of Locke. Edwards tried to impose upon the ignorant to make them believe that Locke, in his Treatise on the Reasonableness of Christianity, had thereby corrupted men's minds, depraved the Gospel, and abused Christianity. Not an argument could be found to support the assertion, which led Mr. Locke to remark that Edwards had thought fit to let the book alone and fall upon the author. The name of Edwards has been rendered conspicuous by attacking Locke, and it is probable that Mr. Abernethy's name may reach posterity in consequence of his having declared war against the men of science of the present day. Mr. Abernethy reprobates opinions

tending to subvert morality, benevolence, and the social interests of mankind, and yet he tries to make the public suppose that life is a material substance, which floats about like the common air, ready to fly into any structure that comes in its way. A little reflection might have told him, that the mass of mankind firmly believe that life and soul are synonymous terms. If, therefore, they conceive, with Mr. Abernethy, that the life of man is a material substance, their belief in future rewards and punishments must evanish like a phantom.

CANCER.—Mr. Aldis, a respectable surgeon of London, has lately published a second edition of "Observations on the Nature and Cure of Glandular Diseases, especially those denominated *Cancer*," and on the injurious effects of a too free use of mercury, with a detail of various cases, in which he has succeeded in removing the disease without the aid of the knife. In protesting in strong terms against the free use of mercury in cancerous cases, the author observes, "I am aware how much censure is likely to be my portion, but supported by the authority of the opinion of Dr. Latham, President of the College of Physicians on the one hand, and warned by the melancholy case of the late Dr. Curry on the other, I am satisfied in having discharged an imperative duty to my fellow-creatures. "Nothing short," says he, "could have induced me to venture the ordeal of professional criticism in a publication on the most dreadful of human maladies, and one that has hitherto been considered as out of the power of an efficient remedy." That cancer, in its scirrhous and ulcerated stages, becomes more painful, and makes greater progress when the system is under the influence of mercury, (bordering on salivation), no surgeon of experience will deny; but this effect is not always to be prevented, for we have met with cases of scirrhosity of the mammary gland, in which four grains of the blue pill, taken at bed-time for three nights only, agreeably to the direction of Mr. Abernethy, have produced salivation—during which the glands in the arm-pits became tumified, and the primary disease so rapidly advanced to ulceration, that in the short period of three weeks it terminated fatally. The bad effects of mercury do not, therefore, always arise from its "free use."

The mode of treatment adopted by Mr. Aldis is in direct opposition to that so much extolled by Mr. Young; the practice of the former being to produce "an expulsion of the disease," and that of the latter to force it deeper into the soft parts by compression. Mr. Aldis, in justification of his departure from the ordinary routine pursued by his professional brethren, observes, "Till the year 1809, I followed the beaten track; and that, indeed, without entertaining any expectation of being drawn from it, having not the smallest ambition to be considered as a *discoverer* of remedies in obstinate disorders; and far from wishing to appropriate to myself, the honour due unto others. At the period just mentioned, I was requested to visit the patients of Mr. O'Connor, a respectable surgeon, who then lay dangerously ill at his house in Charlotte-street, Fitzroy-square, where he had resided above thirty years. Though the practice of Mr. O'Connor was general, he had directed his attention very closely to cases of cancer and scrofula, which complaints, in fact, he might be said to have made

his unremitted study during the whole of his professional life. He was very highly esteemed by an extensive circle of acquaintance, and most respectably connected with some of the first families. His education was liberal, and he was a man not only of scrupulous integrity, in private life, but far above assuming the airs, or countenancing the arts of the empiric. He laboured much, and his success was great, but he went on in his course endeavouring to benefit his fellow-creatures without arrogating any extraordinary claims to public distinction, by the peculiarity of the method which he had adopted in the relief of cancerous complaints. Thus, in a long experience, he was enabled to arrange his observations, and to improve his judgment, in the knowledge and treatment of these disorders; though he sedulously avoided all occasion of making a public parade of the information which he had accumulated, in the course of so many years devoted to this terrible class of human maladies. At the close of his useful, but unostentatious career, I became acquainted with him; and thus, in consequence of the engagement produced by this connexion, did I acquire a knowledge of the mode of practice which, from that period, I have generally followed, in the management of carcinomatous tumours; but which method, as well as the rationale of it, must be ascribed to the person from whom the same was derived, as being exclusively his own. The same year, Mr. O'Connor died, leaving me in the entire possession of his practice, when his widow earnestly and repeatedly solicited me to remove to her house; but, being already established, I declined complying with her request, though I continued to attend the patients of her deceased husband, and that on terms of advantage to herself.

"From this short history of the manner in which the method of treating cancer passed into my hands, it will be seen that it devolved upon me conditionally, and in absolute confidence; so, that, although some years have elapsed since the death of the gentleman from whom I received it, the obligation of secrecy, in regard to the principle of the remedial process, remains as strong as ever, both in point of honour and of prudence. The plan adopted, or rather, I should say, invented by Mr. O'Connor, was to make an application on the part diseased, for the purpose of deadening it, and then by emollients to induce its separation and expulsion from the sound part; taking care, all along, to support and alter the constitution so as to effect a change of system, which, in almost every case, is essentially necessary to accomplish a permanent cure.

"Such," proceeds Mr. Aldis, "is the general process of treating cancerous tumours, and the kindred ulcers appertaining to that class of maladies, which has proved successful to the effectual cure of many hundreds, if not thousands of afflicted persons, during the space of the last forty years, in the hands of my predecessor and myself."

The component parts of his topical remedy, Mr. Aldis does not consider himself at liberty to divulge, and we are inclined to think with him, that no unfavourable construction should be put on this reserve, when the circumstances under which the communication was conveyed to him are duly considered, and when also the reader reflects, that the virtue of a prescription depends on the personal ob-

servation of the practitioner, and on the constitution, as well as the peculiar habits of the patient. Every practitioner of experience and observation must be aware, that the same remedies, (particularly external ones,) in different hands, and applied indiscriminately to every patient with similar complaints, do often produce effects opposite to those which the practitioner expected from the account given by the discoverer, or indeed to those he had witnessed in others. In the management of cancer, through the medium of the constitution, Mr. Aldis lays claim to originality. The efficacy of this treatment is now established by three hundred successful results. Even in *external* applications, though the principle which directs the mode of treatment he has adopted, was derived from the experience of Surgeon O'Connor, the plan has not remained in the practice of Mr. Aldis without modifications and improvements, which its operation on different constitutions has suggested, and repeated observations have confirmed. Many valuable medicines have, no doubt, been reprobated, and fallen into disuse, in consequence of the errors of inexperienced and indiscreet practitioners; and it is a fact, that some of the most important discoveries ever made for the alleviation of human misery, have been impeded in their progress, and rendered nearly inert, by violent prejudices created against them in the minds of the public. When a practitioner professes to cure a disease by a secret remedy, or a mode of treatment known only to himself, he is, as it were, by a general understanding among a certain class of practitioners, considered to be out of the pale of the *regular* profession; but where is the medical man who does not pretend to some superior knowledge of disease, or who will not intimate to a patient that has been under the care of another practitioner, that he has been either improperly treated, or that he is better acquainted with the nature or cause of his malady? Is it not a common practice with Messrs. Astley Cooper and Cline, by a shrug of the shoulders, or some expression of the countenance, to induce their patients to suppose that little or nothing had been done by the medical men who had attended them, to remove the cause of their maladies, or that they had not formed a correct idea of their causes and nature? Now, will any professional man of candour say, that such practice is not more dishonourable than that of a regular surgeon, who undertakes to cure a malady by a mode of treatment known only to himself? The one openly confesses that his mode of treatment is a secret, whilst the other pretends to a superior knowledge which he does not possess. It is very far from our intention to persuade practitioners not to promulgate their discoveries; we only mean to assert, that the present state of medicine in this metropolis justifies it, for certain it is, the only object of some leading physicians and surgeons is the loaves and fishes, and he who possesses the greatest share of impudence, and petticoat influence, will be the most successful.

We may again notice, as a discouragement to the promulgation of a discovery, the propensity which prevails among many physicians and surgeons to discountenance every thing that is gratuitously disclosed for the general benefit of mankind; indeed, among a certain set of practitioners, the discoverer, praiseworthy as his conduct is, is sure to

meet with nothing but abuse. Mr. Aldis has so long maintained a rank in the medical world with such credit to himself and to the profession as an able surgeon and physician, an accurate observer and detailer of valuable facts, that we have no hesitation in assuring our readers that they may safely place the most implicit confidence in his statements and professional abilities. The following case, selected from many others, equally decisive of the success of Mr. Aldis's mode of treating cancer, will justify this recommendation of his treatise and his mode of treatment.

"Mrs. Pear, of Dover, was strongly urged to place herself under my care, by several persons of the first respectability in that town, particularly Lady Laurie, widow of Sir Robert Laurie, and Mrs. Fector, the lady of Mr. Fector, the banker, both of whom felt themselves much interested in the melancholy situation of Mrs. Pear, and anxious for her recovery. Previously to this, she had consulted Mr. Astley Cooper, who, after examining the diseased part, declared it to be a case of confirmed Cancer, for which nothing could be effectually done, neither would he advise the operation by the knife. In this state I saw Mrs. Pear, accompanied by her own surgeon, Mr. Norwood, of Dover, who had treated the complaint for some time, and that occasionally under the direction of both Mr. Cline and Mr. Cooper. When Mrs. Pear called on me, in September, 1813, the enlargement of the gland was on her right breast, and had existed eighteen years. As she was then under the direction of Mr. Norwood, I conceived it would be most candid and agreeable to that gentleman, to give my opinion upon the case in his presence. I did so; and on being made acquainted with the nervous and debilitated state of the system, attended with nausea, spasmodic head-ache, and coldness in the extremities, all which symptoms were as much against the probability of restoring the general health, as of removing the original disease, I expressed my fears that the patient had been under the influence of mercury; a medicine which I had invariably found was so far from proving serviceable in Cancer, that on the contrary it only tended to establish and confirm the disease. So, in fact, it proved in the present instance, as mercury had been constantly prescribed, and only laid aside when the constitution could no longer bear it, but it was again as regularly ordered when the patient was in a condition to endure its effects. Such was the method of treatment that had now been pursued for several years, without producing any alteration in the tumour, which was hard, and attended with all those lancinating and exquisitely painful sensations, and distress of mind, commonly experienced in true Cancer. Her complexion was sallow, her mind dejected, and her person evinced how much she was enfeebled; small in stature, of a delicate frame, with considerable pain in the side, and fulness of body. She never had any family, although she was at this time in the thirty-fourth year of her age, and married.

"The tumour was about the size of a hen's egg, firmly seated, towards the upper part of the breast, and so deeply that its connexion was very near the ribs.

"A long conversation with her medical friend, on my plan of treat-

ment, and the nature of the complaint, in both which we perfectly concurred, ended in his advising Mrs. Pear to put herself entirely under my care, and we parted. Mrs. Pear accordingly took apartments in the neighbourhood, and on the thirteenth of September, she became my patient. The usual remedy was then adopted, and a course of medicines pursued, not only to assist in counteracting the disease, but to reinstate, as much as possible, a constitution shattered by mercurials, which had produced those distressing paroxysms of nervous head-ache, pain in the side, sickness of the stomach, coldness in the feet, and the frequent fits of shivering, already mentioned. The spasmodic pains in the head, occasionally deprived the sufferer of all sense, and when aggravated by the acute shootings from the cancerated tumour, the nervous affection often caused temporary derangement to a degree little if any thing short of madness.

"The beneficial effects of the new treatment were soon perceptible, in a diminution of all those afflicting circumstances; and thus, by persevering in the supporting system, without having once any occasion to deviate from it, the health of the patient rapidly improved, and the tumour yielded to such a degree, that, by the sixth of December, it was completely extracted. Mrs. Pear now removed to Gloucester-place, the residence of Lady Laurie, for a few weeks, that she might not lose the opportunity of a complete restoration. While her Ladyship, and Mrs. Fector, felt the greatest delight at the cure which had thus been so happily and speedily effected; they were desirous that, as Mr. Cooper had examined the diseased breast, which he had pronounced a hopeless case, from the length of its duration, and the debilitated state of the system it had produced, that gentleman might again see her. She accordingly waited upon Mr. Cooper, and it is no more than justice to that able practitioner, who I am proud to call my friend, to say that, while he expressed the warmest satisfaction at the recovery of one whom he had before considered as incurable, he did not withhold his approbation of the means by which it had been effected.

"Though six years have passed since this cure was performed, no symptom of a relapse has been exhibited; and the lady has repeatedly called on me, in her occasional visits to town, where, as well as in the country, she has been seen and conversed with by some hundreds of persons on the subject of her recovery.

"To the questions put to her, with regard to the sensations occasioned in the affected breast, when she was under the influence of mercury, her reply was, that she constantly found herself worse; the tumour increased, and became more painful; and that the nervous head-ache was always then considerably aggravated."

CHELTENHAM WATERS.—From the pen of the experienced Dr. Jameson of Cheltenham, we have received a Refutation of Dr. Neale's Letter to a Professor of Medicine on the Cheltenham Waters, with a statement of the proceedings which have lately been adopted to satisfy the public that the assertions of Dr. N. respecting the means adopted by the proprietors of some wells to produce a variety of waters are false. In the third edition of his Treatise on the Virtues of the Cheltenham Waters, which was published about six years since, Dr. Jameson noticed numerous wells in different situations over the

valley of Gloucester, the waters of which he found to contain muriate of soda and sulphuretted hydrogen gas, which, on account of possessing a purgative quality, were termed by the ignorant, "Cheltenham Waters." "But Cheltenham," says the Doctor, "produces water of a more valuable character; for, in the immediate vicinity of that town, there are many acres of land composed of *blue* clay, which penetrates from within four or five feet of the surface to *unknown* depths. This is replete with fossil shells, muriate of soda, and masses of martial pyrites, relics of the ancient ocean. But the most distinguishing character of the waters in this situation, consists in their containing sulphate of soda, and sulphate of magnesia, and *few* of them are *entirely* destitute of iron; which is the reason that a moderate dose of these waters may be taken daily for months together, without producing debility, and in this they differ from most other purgatives. These ingredients being acted on by the rain water, percolating the soil, supply the wells with different chemical substances, and various degrees of impregnation. Hence we find three neutral salts in the waters which give to each a different character." These the Doctor distinguishes by the names of alkaline, magnesian, and muriatic, of which he gives the following description:

"*First.*—ALKALINE WATERS, wherein there is a predominancy of sulphate of soda, which produce an *alkaline* or *urinous* taste, and leave a slight impression of bitter on the palate. They produce no precipitate with alkaline tests.

"*Secondly.*—MAGNESIAN WATERS, containing a predominant base of sulphate of magnesia, which impress a strong bitter and soft taste on the palate, and produce a copious white precipitate by the test of pure ammonia, re-soluble by the addition of a little citric acid.

"*Thirdly.*—MURIATIC WATERS, wherein there is a predominancy of muriate of soda. Of this kind there are several wells at Cheltenham, known by their brackish or simply salt taste, and all the waters contain more or less of it; they produce a copious white precipitate by the test of nitrate of silver, which assumes a blue cast by exposure to light.

"Muriate of soda, or sea salt," the Doctor asserts to be "as useful an impregnation as any in the waters, and they contain little more than is sufficient to *season* them. It is peculiarly useful in ameliorating the effects of the other impregnations on the palate, and prevents them from producing nausea and sickness. It is serviceable in cases of *debility* of the stomach. It has very nearly the same cathartic powers as the other neutral salts; for a pint of sea water, which, according to Bergman, contains half an ounce of sea salt, proves, when diluted with fresh water, strongly purgative, and is often used by navy surgeons for that purpose, and by visitors at bathing places; Dr. Neale advances, (page 16,) that '*muriate of soda does not act on the bowels;*' but Hoffman observes, that an ounce of sea salt dissolved in a proper quantity of water, will occasion six stools or more without uneasiness; and every one knows that it is in common use as a purgative in glysters. In the Cheltenham waters, the junction of different species of salts, operates more readily than the same dose of any other singly; which is the case with most

cathartics: hence the faculty generally combines senna, rhubarb, &c. with saline substances, to increase the facility of their operation on the bowels. It promotes digestion and appetite. It enters the blood in an unchanged state, and, by union with the serum, promotes its fluidity, and excites all the secretions. It frequently proves diuretic, and then does not go off so readily by the bowels. In large doses it is an excellent remedy against worms. The Spas of Leamington, Gloucester, and Harrowgate, which abound with sea salt, are proofs of its celebrity.

"As the principal or only objection of Dr. Neale to the waters of Montpelier Spa, appears to be the abundance of sea salt contained in them, the author claims the indulgence of a short digression in their favour.

"The relish for sea salt," the Doctor considers to be "an instinct implanted in us by nature. We daily, says he, consume with our food more than double the quantity contained in a dose of any of the waters of the wells. Job says, 'Can that which is unsavoury be eaten without salt?' All authors have written in praise of its good effects on the human system, and it extends its benefits even to the inferior animals, for salt has been used for the diseases of cattle ever since the time of Pliny. Nature has provided sea salt in greater abundance than any other article in the mineral kingdom, in consequence of its superior utility, for it constitutes a thirtieth part of the boundless ocean, and is a more constant impregnation in mineral waters than any other. Although some travellers have said that it is generally neglected in Lapland, were we even to admit this, which is extremely paradoxical, it is to be explained by the cold of the polar regions, supplying the necessary stimulus to the human body in another manner. Wit and wisdom, the greatest talents of the human mind, have been expressed by Cicero, and other Romans, by the term 'Sal:' in the Hebrew language, the same word serves to express both king and salt. It was universally offered up to the gods, and employed as the symbol of peace; and to denote the high idea entertained of its importance in some countries, we need only mention, that if a Tartar eats salt with a stranger, he feels himself bound to defend him to the last.

"Besides these three distinguishing salts, some of the waters contain two other valuable impregnations, which give each a new character, viz.

"*Sulphuretted Hydrogen Gas,* well known by its nauseous and fœtid odour, and by its tarnishing metals. And lastly, a *chalybeate principle,* which impresses the palate with a rough astringent taste, and gives a dark brown colour to the crystallized salts."

The Doctor admits that invalids whose health has been improved during a residence in Cheltenham are not entirely indebted to the impregnations of the waters: "It cannot," says he, "be too well known that besides the *virtues* of their chemical impregnations, many other advantages are derived in the cure of diseases, from drinking mineral waters at their fountain head. Hence some of them, as Bristol, Malvern, Matlock, &c. contain very little foreign matter; but the auxiliary circumstances, which attend the drinking of them at

the place of their origin, are a principal consideration in the good effects, invalids for the most part experience from them.

"The *temporary retreat* to watering places, permits the vital and nervous powers of the human system to recruit their energies, exhausted by constant occupation or fatigue.

"The *change of air* from confined and dense atmospheres, to the pure and elastic air of a country situation, often produces an immediate recovery of appetite and sleep.

"The *change of habits*, from scenes of dissipation and conviviality, to temperance in diet and drink, *retiring soon to bed, and walking to a mineral well early in the morning*, have been always considered principal means in the cure of most diseases.

"*Regular exercise in the open air*, by walking, and riding on horseback, stimulate the living powers to remove visceral obstructions.

"The *hope, inspired by confidence, in a natural remedy*, and the recovery of numerous other votaries, induce invalids to persevere in the plan of drinking them a sufficient time for a cure.

"A solution of Glauber salts cannot be drank at home, every day, for weeks together, without the aid of these and other auxiliaries. It would soon become a very unsafe medicine, without the appetite be renovated at the same time.

"Besides, the *appropriate temperature of the waters*, their gases, and sparkling appearance in warm weather, are not altogether to be neglected, as circumstances in aid of their medicinal virtues.

"A due proportion of *the bulk of watery fluid*, or the diluting principle, which people are in the habit of taking at mineral wells, likewise contributes to their good effects in many cases; thus a small portion of iron, largely diluted, is more efficacious in curing diseases, than a much larger proportion of oxyd of iron in the state of powder."

On the salts made by Mr. Thompson, we find the following observations:—"About the year 1813, a controversy took place among the chemists of Cheltenham and elsewhere, whether the crystals of the sulphate of soda, prepared at Mr. Thompson's laboratory, were of the same nature as those of the shops, and the author took some trouble in determining that they were exactly the same as those of the shops, in point of solubility, chemical elements, operations on the human body, and in the appearances of the large perfect crystals examined by the goniometer. The salts, therefore, are of very inferior consideration to drinking the waters, and the public ought not to be charged with stamp-duty on the sale of Cheltenham Salts.

"Sir Humphry Davy, in March, 1811, sent Mr. Thompson his analysis of the alkaline salts of Montpelier waters, which confirmed the author's opinion that they were Glauber salts!!"

The most alarming circumstance which ever threatened the prosperity of Cheltenham, was the relapse of our late King soon after taking the water of the Old Well, in 1788. Dr. Jameson states, from his own knowledge, that this circumstance reduced the number of drinkers the following year more than one-third. "But this," says the Doctor, "ought rather to have been ascribed to an epidemic small pox, and a wet summer, which happened in the year 1789. It shews, however, the rapid effects of ill-founded reports, and how soon they

again are crushed by the weight of general experience; for it kept increasing the number of its visitors in a compound ratio, during several years afterwards.

It is a remarkable fact in favour of the waters, that Mr. Harry Rooke, formerly proprietor of the old and new Assembly Rooms, drank at this well for a series of 58 years; never less than 70, but generally 80 days in the year. A pint and a half of the water operated gently on the bowels, and always in the same manner as it had done 40 years ago. He is now a strong healthy man, aged 76 years, living at Prestbury, a village near Cheltenham.

In consequence of Dr. Neale's letter, the Old Well, and its three newly established ones, have been inspected on the 23d of June, 1820, by Dr. Jameson, in the presence of Mr. Moss, chemist, several visitors, and some towns-people.

A circular counter within the pump-room, contains five cocks, with duplicates to each, from which the following waters are drawn.

No. 1, the '*Original or Old Well,*' which has existed a century, contains a chalybeate saline water, and is still in as great estimation by those who are now drinking it, as ever. It has no cistern nor tank, and has no communication with any other well. The well is covered with a dome in the centre of the walk, within 10 feet of the counter. The depth of the well is now 68 feet, containing 6 feet in depth of water. The water tastes strongly saline, very bitter, and slightly astringent, from a small quantity of iron with which it is impregnated. It has three times the number of drinkers than any of the other wells of this establishment except No. 4.—No. 2, *Sulphuretted Saline*, drawn from a well in the orchard, distant from the pump room 132 feet; depth of the well 67 feet; depth of the water 18½ feet. The water from the bottom of the well has a smell of sulphur, and a strong saline taste.—No. 3. *Chalybeated Saline*, drawn from a well near the top of the serpentine walk, 494 feet distant from the pump room. Depth of the well 51 feet; depth of the water 18 feet. It tastes saline and strongly astringent, and appears to contain muriate of soda, without iron. A pipe from this well communicates with a tank adjoining the pump room.—No. 4, *Pure Saline*, drawn from a well in a brick building, about ten feet square, situated on the west side of the adjoining orchard, 157 feet distant from the pump room; depth of the well 56 feet; depth of water 18 feet; water tastes strongly bitter and astringent, without sulphur. In this room are two semi-circular leaden troughs, fixed to the wall, which communicate by small pipes with a tank, under the pavement, adjoining the semi-circular counter. The *solution* used in the pump room, is delivered from quart bottles, sometimes made by evaporating the mineral water from No. 4, to better than a 30th part; at other times by dissolving the crystallized salts. There is also, about 90 feet from this room, a square brick building, containing a laboratory and store room, belonging to Messrs. Beavan and Co. Chemists, Cheltenham, for the purpose of preparing Cheltenham Salts, from the saline waters brought in buckets. Glauber's salt is the principal saline impregnation of Cheltenham waters: and to the generality of invalids, the Doctor recommends those waters which contain it, combined with a small portion of iron, if the latter be not contra-indi-

cated by much inflammatory action prevailing in the system; and he does not consider the quantity of sea salt contained in any of the waters, at all prejudicial to any class of invalids, because their tonic powers are aided by large dilution, and the operation of the salts."

Since the publication of our last Number, we have been credibly informed that Dr. Thompson, Regius Professor of Chemistry in the University of Glasgow, &c. after having carefully analysed all the *aperient saline waters* of Cheltenham, has publicly asserted that not one contains iron. The entire absence of iron, we consider a great recommendation, for it is too powerful a remedy to be administered at random. The proportion of iron, it has been said, is much too small either to do good or harm. Small, however, as the portion is, it is capable in a delicate or nervous subject to increase the temperature of the system, and consequently to do much mischief; in cases of organic disease of the liver, or any other viscus, and in affections of the lungs, liver, and bowels, attended with slight fever, or inflammatory excitement of the constitution, a very small quantity of iron taken regularly has been productive of the most serious mischief. Iron, therefore, should be cautiously administered in those cases of the liver, &c. for which the Cheltenham waters are recommended, and never without the advice of an experienced practitioner.

The names by which Dr. Jameson has distinguished the different waters, might, eighty years ago, have induced his readers to suppose that he was a great chemist.—A solution of the sulphate of soda, (a neutral salt,) a person acquainted with chemistry would not term an "*alkaline water.*"—By terming the water *magnesian*, because the "*sulphate of magnesia*" predominates, and another "*muriatic*" because the muriate of soda prevails, also betrays an ignorance of modern chemistry, for by the term "*magnesian water*," a chemist would understand a water containing magnesia held in solution by the carbonic acid gas, and in that denominated "muriatic" he would expect to find the muriatic acid to predominate, or to exist uncombined, instead of being in a neutral state.—The Doctor seems to be indebted to Mr. Thompson, of the Montpelier Wells, for these fine sounding names, for in his list of salts, we find he employs them!! The Doctor's assertion, that a water cannot be impregnated by artificial means, with the sulphuretted hydrogen gas and a chalybeate principle, also betrays an ignorance of modern chemistry.—We have received a copy of a letter addressed to the editor of a weekly paper, who had certainly very imprudently given copious extracts from Dr. Neale's pamphlet, by Dr. Newell, a physician of extensive experience and observation, now residing in Cheltenham, in which the Doctor very ably refutes the principal assertions of Dr. Neale, and points out his false statements in a manner which bespeaks the man of science, and the gentleman.

Since Dr. Neale left Cheltenham, he has published the affidavit of a man who had been long in the employ of Mr. Thompson, stating, that he did use, under the direction of Mr. Thompson, a considerable quantity of the *oil of vitriol*, (sulphuric acid,) weekly; hence the Doctor concludes that the sulphate of magnesia sold by Mr. Thompson,

under the name of magnesian salt, is not procured from the Cheltenham Water.—Now the fact is, the sulphuric acid was used by Mr. Thompson to separate the magnesia from lime, and the magnesia dissolved by the sulphuric acid, was afterwards precipitated by potass. The object was, therefore, to purify the magnesia, and consequently creditable to Mr. Thompson.

MEADOW SAFFRON.—The opposite opinions entertained by many eminent practitioners, respecting the medicinal virtues of the root of the meadow saffron, induced Mr. Battley, an able and conscientious chemist of London, a short time ago, to investigate its properties, and to publish the following results and observations, for the information of the medical world.

"In the spring (April,) the root does not materially vary in size and general appearance from that which is ordinarily met with. It is then of a full size, but irregularly or partially indented or hollow: at this time it is found with a small attached bulb, about the size of a bean. The growth of this small bulb *proceeds* from the latter end of April or the beginning of May (according to the season) until the latter end of June, or beginning of July, at which time it attains its full growth. The parent root appears to yield as the new production advances, and when the latter attains its full size, is no longer to be found.

"The *new* root is then plump, firm, and without any indentation or hollow, and does not undergo any change of appearance from this period until the latter end of August, when in its turn it becomes *old*; for at this time it throws out a new bulb: the flower proceeds, and in the course of a very few days is fully displayed.

"Between this latter period and the spring, very little apparent change takes place; the root and offsets are then found as first described. These changes are, of course, subject to some variation, from soil, climate, and season.

"The state and condition of the root, if subjected to experiment, illustrate the process of nature in a striking and forcible manner.

"A transverse section of a bulb, exposed to the temperature of 170;

"If procured in the *autumn*, contracts, and when dried is shrivelled;

"If procured in the *spring*, the cuticle collapses, no other part of the then remaining substance being capable of enduring the heat;

"If procured in the *month of July or August*, before the new bulb is projected, it remains quite solid and firm, and has a creamy appearance.

"It may be inferred from these facts;

"That, this root is deprived of its power, progressively, from the time of throwing out the new bulb until its final disappearance; and that, although very little change of appearance occurs during the winter months, it really undergoes a decided change during that period.

"That, August (before the new bulb is thrown out) is the proper season to procure the root.

"And it may also be inferred,

"That the various opinions as to the medicinal properties of colchicum have proceeded from the various states in which it has been brought into use.

"The root, when removed from the ground, (in August, before the new bulb appears,) should be *immediately* cut into transverse slices, equal in thickness to a half-crown; to be then exposed in wicker baskets, without placing the pieces in contact, to a temperature of 170 to 180, and so to remain until dried, which will require from two to three hours; during this time it will lose in weight about two-thirds. This process should ensue without delay after the root is procured, otherwise the flowering will proceed, although out of the ground; and when the process is complete, these transverse cuts or pieces should be carefully preserved in small boxes, in a dry situation.

"The root, when taken from the ground at the time recommended, and cut transversely, exhibits a milky appearance on both surfaces. The exudation is not particularly pungent; it rather impresses the tongue with a cold but peculiar sensation, which remains unabated for some time. This sensation of cold is accompanied by a sense of peculiar excitement, which is conveyed to the fauces, and continues still longer than the first-mentioned sensation of cold. Under ordinary circumstances it does not inflame the skin.

"In a recent case of decided gout, attacking the second joint of the great toe, twenty drops of the wine of meadow saffron having been given, in about half an hour a slight nausea was experienced, and upon awaking from the sound sleep which ensued, the pain had entirely ceased. The dose was repeated eight or ten hours afterwards. Two months have since elapsed, without any indication of a return of the complaint."

Mr. Battley adds the following recipe for making the wine of this root:

Take of The Root (dried as directed above,) 2 ounces.
Spanish white wine, 2 pints.
Rectified spirit of wine, 2 ounces.

Infuse the root (slightly bruised) in the wine for a week or ten days, (shaking the bottle once or twice a-day for a few minutes)—after filtering the liquor through paper, add the rectified spirit.

INDIGESTION, SCROFULA, AND ASTHMA.—A noble subscriber informs us, that he and many of his friends have received "very great benefit from the caustic alkali, (made according to Mr. Brandish's formula,) in obstinate cases of indigestion, after the prescriptions of many eminent physicians had failed." The following directions for making the alkali are given by Mr. Brandish:

Take of the purest American pearl ashes, 4lbs.
Lime, fresh from the kiln,
The fresh ashes of branches of the ash tree (burnt as soon as may be after the wood is dry), of each 2lbs.
Boiling water 4 gallons.

"Boil the water in a tin kettle, and while the water is boiling hot, put the lime into it, a small piece at a time, that the ebullition may

not be so great, as to force the water over; when the lime is properly slacked, put in the pearl ashes, and stir it till the lumps are all broken; then put in the wood ashes, and stir it all together, and pour it into a strong earthen jar, or pot well glazed on the inside, with a wooden spigot and faucet fixed in it, and a little tow or herds wrapped round the end of the faucet withinside the vessel, for the liquor to drain through when drawn off: let it stand at least twenty-four hours, then draw it off into a glazed earthen cup, very gradually, by putting a small chip or splint of wood by the side of the spigot into the faucet, so that the liquor may little more than drop: it will then come off perfectly clear.

"A pint of this liquor, wine measure, will weigh from eighteen to nineteen ounces; it is to be taken twice a day, namely between breakfast and dinner, and at night, going to bed, in a small tea cup full of fresh small beer or ale, as that will cover the taste of the alkali better than any other vehicle. The beer cannot be too fresh, provided it is quite clear; but should the patient have a dislike to beer, it may be taken in malt tea, barley water, or water gruel: in whatever it is taken, the taste of the alkali should be a little predominant.

"To children, from four years of age to six, he generally gives one small tea spoonful, or one dram by measure. From six years old to eight, one tea spoonful and a half. To children under 4 years old, of course must be given less, in proportion to their age. From eight to fifteen, two tea spoonfuls, from fifteen to eighteen, two tea spoonfuls and a half. To grown people, three tea spoonfuls; and to some strong people, he has given four tea spoonfuls. For the first few days, he recommends *rather* a smaller quantity, in all cases."

In order to give the solution a grateful flavour, he recommends "a drop or two of true oil of juniper berries to be added to a pint of it." Mr. Brandish states that he has found this remedy, with mercurial inunction, to succeed in the cure of scrofula. The mercurial ointment (strong) he recommends to be rubbed into the skin every night in the following proportions: "Children from four years old to eight may rub in six grains; from one to four, rather less; from eight to twelve, nine grains; from twelve to sixteen, twelve grains; from sixteen and upwards, fifteen grains; and for strong subjects, a little more." For making the mercurial ointment the following are his directions: "Put a pound of quicksilver in a stone or marble mortar, and add a small quantity of fresh hog's lard; rub them together for some time with a marble or stone pestle, and add, by degrees, a small quantity of lard till it amounts to a pound; rub them till the globules completely disappear, or in other words, till the quicksilver is completely killed. He does not put any mutton suet into it, because he thinks the ointment rubs in better without it." He adds, "I wish the friction to be continued till the part is quite dry, (which will probably take half or three quarters of an hour,) as the stimulus produced by it will increase the action of the absorbent vessels, and by that means cause more of the mercury to be taken up. I always order it to be rubbed, if practicable, below the seat of the tumour or ulcer, so that the mercury may, as much as possible, pass through the diseased part.

"The patient should sleep with a glove on the hand he rubs with, and for the purposes of cleanliness, he recommends a thread, or cotton stocking, or linen glove, to cover the leg, or arm upon which the ointment is rubbed. He may wash his hands in the morning with warm water. But the part rubbed upon need not be washed oftener than once in three or four days. Let it be remembered, that the patient must always wash himself with a little warm water." During the use of this ointment, costiveness should be obviated by the occasional use of the Epsom salt, or senna tea, sweetened with manna.

With respect to the propriety of opening scrofulous tumours, Mr. Brandish observes, "There have been various opinions concerning the propriety of opening scrofulous tumours. If they tend to suppuration, I constantly apply a poultice of bread and milk, without any grease in it, night and morning, and put it on sufficiently thick to keep soft for twelve hours: I continue the use of it, till the tumour is quite come to maturity: I would then rather open it, than leave it to break of itself, because I have the choice of opening it in the most dependent part, and it generally happens, that there is a smaller cicatrix, or scar, than when it is suffered to break of itself; but the operation of opening must not be performed till the hardness is completely dissolved. When nature is left to act for herself, it will most commonly break about the middle of the tumour, and then it will be necessary to dilate the wound to the bottom of the tumour, as it is evident the matter cannot run upwards."

Several children who had been under Mr. Brandish's care for a considerable time, and have gone directly from him to a boarding school, "have broken out again, and this," says he, "I have no doubt was entirely owing to their having exchanged their regimen of good ale, and an occasional glass of wine, for poor small beer. The meat at the public schools is in general very good. But it may not be amiss to remark, that the beer is in general very weak and sometimes very bad."

"Children should wear thick soled shoes, and be earnestly cautioned against wetting their feet. But if by chance they should, their shoes and stockings must be immediately changed."

Mr. Brandish has also found the caustic alkali very beneficial in spasmodic asthma. Taken to the extent of two or three tea spoonsful, it has speedily terminated a paroxysm, and by perseverance in its use, the patient effectually subdued the disease. He recommends "a simple diet and general temperance during the use of the remedy;" but, he adds, "I have found the alkali very efficacious where these have not been strictly observed."

The author concludes his treatise with the following observations: "This remedy" (the caustic alkali) "I have dared to use under the safe guidance of experience, in much larger doses than it was ever used before. Success has justified my daring, and I therefore venture to offer the medicine to the public, with the hope that in the manner, in which I have applied it, and this improved and extended by farther trials, and more enlightened science, it may one day or other be the safe antidote to some of those disorders, which are so

destructive to the health and happiness of the human race: indeed from the increased experience which I have had of the efficacy of the caustic alkali, *since* the publication of my observations, and from the reports which have been made to me of its success, when administered by others of the profession, I can no longer entertain the smallest doubt of its efficacy, but consider myself fully justified in asserting, that the treatment I have recommended may be fully relied upon to effect a complete and radical cure in all cases of scrofula whatsoever."

The alkaline solution is a very powerful caustic, and if it should not meet with an acid in the stomach, it is capable, in the quantity recommended by Mr. Brandish, of doing much injury to the internal coat of that organ. Medical men of experience will attribute its beneficial effects in scrofula, indigestion, and asthma, to its neutralising acid matter in the stomach, and consequently, would disapprove of its use when an acid does not exist. Those who may be disposed to give Mr. Brandish's alkaline solution a trial, may obtain it and the mercurial ointment at the Medical Hall, 170, Piccadilly.

PERIODICAL COUGH.—For the following case of Periodical Cough, cured by the deadly nightshade, and the Peruvian bark, we are indebted to Dr. Chomel:—A lady aged twenty-one, after having experienced repeated hysterical attacks, was afflicted with a periodical cough, commencing every afternoon about two o'clock, and continuing seven or eight hours with extraordinary violence. During the paroxysm, which was accompanied by excessive perspiration, a small quantity of clear frothy liquid was expectorated. The body was much emaciated, and the digestion bad. The paroxysm of coughing, on its first occurring, did not continue longer than an hour. The patient then also suffered from ague, the paroxysms of which were clearly distinct from the cough, and was cured by the Peruvian bark, without any mitigation of the latter. After the stomach was properly emptied by an emetic, the extract of the deadlynight shade, in the dose of two grains three times a day had the effect of transforming the cough (as Dr. C. supposes) into real hysterical attacks, which readily gave way to the Peruvian bark. The patient not only speedily recovered, but became remarkably healthy and stout.

TIC DOLOUREUX.—M. Boillard has published a well marked and very severe case of this disease, which was cured by dividing the nerve affected. The patient was a tall stout man, aged forty-eight, and had been much exposed to atmospheric vicissitudes. The first attack occurred suddenly at night, in August last. It returned frequently, and at times was horribly severe. During the paroxysm, the saliva escaped in great abundance, and the left side of the face was agitated by a peculiar tremulous and vibratory motion. The vision of the eye of the same side was indistinct. For six weeks the patient obtained scarcely any sleep. Moxa had been applied to the lower jaw with good effect; but, in October, the pain recurred with violence. Speaking, mastication, and sometimes even moving the jaw, produced a paroxysm. For two months, all the usual remedies, local and general, were employed in vain; and on the 7th of Decem-

ber, the nerve was divided at its exit upon the cheek. The pain instantly ceased. Half the lower lip was paralytic for a few days after the operation.

We have witnessed the very beneficial effects of the carbonate of iron, administered in the large doses recommended by Mr. Hutchinson in two very bad cases of this disease, of long standing With this remedy, it appears that M. Boillard was not acquainted when he published the above case.

STRICTURE OF THE RECTUM.—Some surgeons have denied that any part of the intestinal canal is subject to a permanent contraction, that can, with propriety, be termed stricture, and, consequently, that the bougie can be of no utility, even when the supposed disease exists in the rectum. In consequence of this opinion being lately given by the Editor of a Monthly Journal, Mr. Hicks, a surgeon of great experience and observation, resident in Bath, has communicated the following remarks:—"My zeal for the promotion of that science, which has been the principal object of my life, forbids me to withhold the information that may be in my power to supply on this occasion; nor do I hesitate to afford the testimony of my experience, not only as to the liability of the intestines to permanent contraction, but to the long established efficacy of the above-mentioned mode of practice for its removal.

"Towards the close of the year 1807, during my residence at Mr. Brookes's Theatre of Anatomy, to the example of whose indefatigable industry and sagacious penetration I am so much indebted, some interesting cases of dissection came before me, which first suggested the probability of the intestinal canal being subject to simple contractions, without apparent disease or disorganization. The importance of this discovery fixed my attention, and engaged me in a course of dissections for the investigation of its truth. The result demonstrated the fact beyond the power of refutation; and so early as in the following year produced thorough conviction in my mind as to the proper treatment of this class of diseases, however modified by variety of constitutions and symptoms incidental to general practice. I have ever since persevered with increased confidence in these original principles;—principles which develop that complex system in the generation of diseases grounded upon sympathetic origin, as opposed to mere topical affections; the study of which is the foundation of every thing scientific or widely beneficial in physiology.

"The first application I made of the bougie in this species of disease, was in the summer of the year 1808, for a simple stricture of the rectum, of rather an inveterate nature, attended by affections of the head. The success which followed this experiment (for such it certainly was at that time) equalled my most sanguine expectations, and justified my reliance on the sole use of the bougie for all similar affections.

"In the course of the last eleven years, numerous anomalous cases have been submitted to me, pronounced, by practitioners of eminence, to be purely primary, and for a length of time ineffectually treated by them as such; but which, through the application of the bougie

alone, have proved to be merely sympathetic, and have disappeared on the restoration of the intestinal functions. Some of these cases are remarkable both for magnitude and duration; and thus satisfactorily confirm the important theory of sympathetic affections dependant on the contraction of the intestinal canal, and solely removed by the restoration of its functions.

"But I may probably lay some of these interesting cases before the public at my first leisure. At present, professional engagements oblige me to confine myself to the testimony of my practice towards the establishment of this very important theory, as well as of the general liability of the intestinal canal to simple contraction, without apparent disease or disorganization."

WATER IN THE HEAD.—The strong resemblance between the symptoms of the first stage of this disease, infantile remittent fever, and worms, and the assertion lately made by Dr. Abercrombie, an able physician of Edinburgh, "that there are no certain marks, by which the presence of this disease can be ascertained," have induced the experienced and observant Dr. Dickson, of Clifton, to publish a short dissertation on the means of distinguishing the watery head in the first, or inflammatory stage (hydrocephalus acutus), from those affections of the head, which are attended with somewhat similar symptoms. Dr. Abercrombie, and Dr. Lasserre of Paris, contend that the drowsiness, or stupor, and other symptoms, are not to be considered as the direct effect of the accumulation of water in the ventricles of the brain, but of that morbid condition of the brain, of which the effusion is the consequence, an inference which is very probably correct. Dr. Dickson observes:—"Where the usual precursory appearances are followed by those of inflammation, or excitement of the brain, and when these in turn are succeeded by symptoms of compression—such series of symptoms corresponding with the progressive changes, usually remarked in acute hydrocephalus,—there can be little doubt of what is going forward; but, when the primary stage has not been witnessed, or the symptoms of excitement have been obscure, or have passed rapidly over, and the patient is found by the physician, as it were, at once overpowered by coma, it becomes as difficult as it is important, to decide whether the oppression of the brain depends on distention of blood-vessels, or has arrived at the almost hopeless stage of serous effusion; and the indications of treatment, are accordingly unsatisfactory and vacillating, in proportion as the appearances which countenance the one or the other suspicion, predominate. Such was the state of the case about to be detailed; and, after what is premised on symptoms generally, I shall leave it to others to determine whether or not it deserves to be regarded as a case of water in the head. If the patient had died, few, I believe, would have hesitated to draw such a conclusion, even without the aid of dissection. Of this I am certain, that I have seen several fatal cases of the disease, proved to be such by dissection, where the symptoms were not nearly so well marked as in the present instance. If the reader should not assent to the justness of this conclusion, it can only arise from impressions in my report of it; for I have to regret that I did not make fuller notes at

the time, and have been cautious of filling up deficiencies from memory. I shall, therefore, content myself with remarking, that the progressive symptoms accurately resembled those described by Dr. Cheyne, which, whatever may be the difficulty in the early period, exhibit a striking picture of the advanced stage of watery head:—"How (he remarks) can we mistake, when we see a child rolling his head on the pillow or perhaps sawing the air with one hand, while the opposite side is palsied, with a hectic on the cheek, his eyelids half concealing the pupil, and the eye deprived of its vivacity by the flimsy covering of the cornea; the complete dilatation of one or of both the pupils, and the suffusion of the adnata; drawing a long sigh; frequently grinding his teeth; quite incoherent, or in a state of complete insensibility, with a burning fever in his skin, or sweat forced from every pore; and all these symptoms alternating with, and at last finished by apoplectic breathing and violent convulsions."—(Essay, p. 22.)

After adverting to the difficulty of discriminating in some cases; Dr. Dickson observes, "it may not be improper to notice some of the symptoms which are considered as more especially belonging to hydrocephalus acutus, and as chiefly distinguishing it from the infantile remittent fever. These are, aversion to light, even early in the disease; knitting the brow; rubbing the back of the head on the mother's arm, and endeavouring to thrust the head backwards; fits of screaming; strabismus, and moving the hands about the head; while in the infantile fever, as Dr. Pemberton observes, though the hands are often carried to the face, it seems to be more from an inclination to pick the skin from the lips, eyes, and nose, than occasioned by the painful restlessness which attends the watery head.

"It has also been attempted to found a distinction upon the remissions in the one case, and in the other, on the state of the excretions, vomiting, inability to bear the erect posture, and other symptoms; but none of them can be depended on individually; it is only from the assemblage of symptoms, the manner they are grouped, and the order of their succession, that we can deduce the existence of watery head. In the subjoined case of Harriet Buckland, the alvine discharges were extremely offensive, generally very dark, or even black, and sometimes green; but I regret, from not having attended particularly to this point at the time, that I am unable to say whether they were ever of that kind which some have denominated hydrocephalic, and upon the cause of which a difference of opinion exists. Dr. Fothergill and Dr. Cheyne give a similar description of their appearance. The latter author, in his very valuable Essays on Water in the Brain, observes, 'Stools of the same nature with those which are generally passed in hydrocephalus, are seldom seen in any other disease. They resemble boiled liver, forming a dark-green gelatinous mass, with an oily-looking surface, are of a sickly, but not fetid smell; they consist of flakes of inspissated bile, which gives them their colour, and of the mucus of the intestines. Diffused in water they do not render it turbid, and scarcely change its colour.' Some other practitioners, on the contrary, as Dr. Armstrong, and Dr. Porter, consider those dark-green glossy motions as arising from

the exhibition of calomel. Notwithstanding the weight I attach to the talents of these able physicians for observation, I distrust this, at least as a general conclusion; because, although I am aware that the use of this medicine, in many cases, does produce motions of a green colour, I have seen the substance in question, which the latter gentleman has not unaptly characterized as resembling green 'turtle fat,' where *no* calomel had been administered for at least some weeks before, and if then, in a trifling dose only. I observed it particularly in one girl, seven years and a half old, at the commencement of a very severe attack of abdominal inflammation; and in another, aged four years, the same matter was voided in considerable progress of formation, less perfect indeed, but the identity appeared to me unquestionable, though the child manifested only slight signs of indisposition, and has since been in perfect health. In both instances it was produced, or, I should rather say, brought away, by an infusion of senna; and I am therefore of opinion that calomel, especially when it gripes much, (and, for the same reason, senna, &c.) dislodges green and fetid secretions, rather than creates those coloured evacuations. Their fetor, however, must depend on the admixture of other matters; for the peculiar green gelatinous substance in question is almost inodorous, or rather, it has a sickly or faint medicinal smell, somewhat, I think, resembling that of jalap."

Much light has been thrown upon this disease of late years; instead of the effusion of serum in the ventricles being regarded as the primary disease, or the cause of the more dangerous symptoms, it is now believed to be the effect or consequence of cerebral inflammation, or excitement, or of venous congestion, from irritation of the brain, original or symptomatic. For the latter view of the subject, we are more especially indebted to Dr. Cheyne, whose excellent publication has forcibly directed attention to the digestive organs, as the 'Fons et origo mali,' by showing how very frequently this disease arises from a disordered state of the chylopoietic viscera.

Men of the first observation and experience have differed upon the question of absorption; and authors appear to us to have gone to opposite extremes, when they assert, either that recovery never, or that recovery not unfrequently, takes place after effusion has occurred. However hopeless, generally speaking, is the nature of watery head in an advanced stage, Dr. Dickson is of opinion that recoveries do sometimes happen. In explanation of this opinion, he remarks (although in some cases death appears to take place from effusion, without disease being observed in the substance of the brain), that, as the worst symptoms of hydrocephalus acutus have been witnessed in cases where little or no effusion of serum has been afterwards found in the ventricles, it seems a highly probable conclusion, that, generally, its fatality does not so much depend upon the collection of water, as upon the destruction or disorganization of those vitally important parts, which late pathologists have shown to be the chief seat of that diseased action, of which effusion is only one of the consequences. In other words, that the issue here depends on whether this morbid condition has proceeded so far (by the deposition of coagulable lymph, or alteration of the structure of

the central parts of the brain) to be incompatible with life or not. In the latter case, the injury sustained, is probably not greater than the powers of nature are capable of repairing; and in the process of reparation they may be aided by the co-operation of art. On this point, Dr. Dickson speaks with the diffidence belonging to limited experience; but his observation of the util ty of this medicine, in occasional cases of oppressed brain supervening in fevers, after the abatement of increased heat and vascular action, he says leads him to agree with Dr. John Clarke, (Diseases of Children, p. 173,) that in this stage 'mercury appears to be the *only* remedy which has been successful in the cure of acute hydrocephalus;' and although my expectation of its curative influence in such cases is less sanguine than that which seems to have been entertained by this experienced practitioner, and some others, I am inclined to consider the following as an instance of this description. To this idea, however, I wish to attach no undue weight; it is a mere matter of opinion.

The following is the case to which Dr. Dickson refers:

Harriet Buckland, aged 17 months, on the 13th October, 1818, was shewn to me while asleep. Her mother said she had been very heavy lately, and frequently laid her head down. She had been ill about a fortnight. I considered it a case of infantile remittent; ordered a mercurial purge, with some senna tea, and advised a note of admission to the Dispensary to be procured. I heard no more of her until the 16th, when I was sent for, and found her alarmingly ill, convulsed, comatose, and with a very quick pulse. I directed leeches to be applied to the temples, and the following powders:

Take of Prepared Calomel, two grains.
Powdered Jalap Root, five grains.
Refined Sugar, eight grains.

Mix.—To be taken immediately, and repeated at bed-time, with six drachms of senna tea.

17th.—But three leeches were applied yesterday, and only two of them bled freely. The child lies in a state of coma, but cries out occasionally; the pupil is insensible to light; the pulse quick; the motions black and offensive. I think it here necessary to observe, that I wished to order the repetition of leeches; but in this, as in almost every subsequent part of the treatment, I was so much opposed by the grandmother, who was a strong advocate for leaving every thing to the will of Providence, that I was only induced by the promises and earnest entreaties of the child's mother to continue my attendance.

Repeat the Powders of Jalap and Calomel, to be taken as before.

18th.—She has been frequently purged since yesterday. The motions are perfectly black, and so offensive as to taint the room for some time afterwards.

Apply two Leeches to each temple, and afterwards a Blister to the neck: also, use the warm bath and fomentations occasionally.

Take of Prepared Calomel, three grains.
Jalap Powder, six grains.

Mix.—To be taken immediately, and repeated at bed-time.

19th.—Three dark and extremely fetid stools. Very restless in the night; tossing about, moving her hand to her head, and frequently convulsed. The blister has not risen. She appears to be now completely comatose and insensible. The pupil is dilated, and the pulse is very quick.

Repeat the Powder of Jalap and Calomel, three doses: one to be taken immediately, and repeated in four hours, and again at bed-time.

20th.—The mother sent up, P. M. to say that the child was still worse, and so strongly convulsed, at times, that she could hardly hold her. A clyster, with castor oil and assafetida, was prescribed, but was not exhibited. The child is quieter and less insensible to-day. The blister has risen well. The bowels are very open, and the motions are still dark, but less fetid.

Take of Prepared Calomel, twelve grains.
Refined Sugar, two scruples.

Mix, and divide in six papers, one to be taken every six hours.

21st.—The child frequently opens her mouth very wide, as if yawning. This gaping motion has continued ever since yesterday, and alternates with a kind of mumbling or biting motion of the lips; but she is not so comatose, more sensible of stimuli, and cries as if in pain when the head is moved or raised. The pulse, too, is rather less quick.

Continue the Calomel every six hours, as prescribed yesterday.

22d.—Notwithstanding the unfavourable state of things, as there was some slight appearance of amendment yesterday, I was induced again to recommend a trial of leeches, and obtained a promise that they should be applied; but two only were tried, and I was told they would not fasten. To-day she seems in an almost hopeless state. She makes no movement of the left leg, which seems paralysed, but the right is frequently extended and retracted. She is constantly moving her head from side to side on the pillow, and biting and moving her lips, but with less frequent gaping than before.

Continue taking two grains of Calomel every six hours.

23d.—She has had no convulsions since yesterday, and seems somewhat more sensible, and expresses pain when moved. She appears dimly to discover objects passed close before her eyes. The stools are less dark and offensive, and now greenish, probably from the calomel. The pulse is still quiet.

Take of Mercurial Ointment half an ounce.
Rub in half a drachm every six hours.
Repeat the Powders.

24th.—The most decided opposition was made to the inunction, and I was obliged to give it up on condition that the powders should be punctually administered. The child appears more sensible to-day, and the pupil contracts a little on the approach of light. The pulse is still quick, though less so than it was. The bowels open.

Repeat the Calomel Powders.

25th.—The stools are become yellow, and the child is more sensible.

Let the Mercurial Powders be repeated.

27th.—The evacuations are now yellow, and of a more natural appearance; but they are less free than they were. The child is sensible, and her cheeks are at present flushed with passion from not obtaining something she wishes.

Repeat the Powders.

28th.—She can use the left leg now, as both are frequently retracted with a struggling, kicking motion; but the left arm seems to be more helpless than the other. She frets and moans as if in pain.

Continue the Calomel as before.

29th.—Her mother says she first observed her to look up, and to observe what was going on yesterday. To-day both eyes are open, but they look dull and filmy, like those of a fish, though she winks when any thing is op-

posed to them. She has a tasting kind of motion of the lips, and uses both hands. Three yellow motions.

Repeat the Calomel Powders (No. 6), as before.

Nov. 3d.– She was more feverish and peevish yesterday, and the motions greener and more offensive. She is now very cross and irritable.

Omit the Powders: let the patient take a teaspoonful of Syrup of Poppies at bed-time.

Take of Powdered Jalap, six grains.
Prepared Calomel, two grains.
Mix.—To be taken in the morning.

5th.—The powder produced some blackish offensive matter; but the stools are now natural again, and the sensorial affection seems nearly gone.

Let the patient have to-morrow, or the day after, a Cathartic Powder, if necessary.

10th.—The child has apparently quite recovered the use of her limbs, and is free from all sensorial symptoms.

30th.—Saw the child to-day, who appears almost quite recovered. She eats enormously.

Let the patient have three Cathartic Powders, one to be taken occasionally.

Discharged.

26th Jan. 1819.—I observed the child to-day running about, and her mother says she continues quite well.

Saw her, several months after the last date, in perfect health.

CHRONIC DIARRHŒA.—The following interesting case of a species of diarrhœa, by no means uncommon in this metropolis, is from the pen of Dr. Abercrombie.

"A lady, aged 30, came under my care in spring 1813, affected in the following manner: she had a remarkable tenderness of the inside of the lips, the tongue, and the throat; a constant discharge of saliva; a burning uneasiness in the tongue, throat, breast, and stomach; and great uneasiness in swallowing, and for some time after it. She had a constant tendency to diarrhœa, and a feeling, as if food or drink did not remain in the stomach, but passed immediately into the bowels: there was some cough, frequent pulse, great debility, and increasing emaciation. The throat appeared raw, and a little inflamed. The edges of the tongue, and the inside of the under lip, were excoriated, and covered with small ulcers, with inflamed margins. There was a painful excoriation about the anus and the labia. The complaint was of about three months standing, and had begun while she was in the puerperal state in England. A great variety of practice was employed without the smallest benefit. She became wasted and debilitated to the greatest degree. The diarrhœa became incessant, with violent pain, and a feeling as if every thing she swallowed passed through her immediately. She had no relief but from large opiates, and that relief was but slight and temporary. When the case appeared to be hopeless, she began to take a decoction of logwood, with opiates, wine, and nourishment. From this time she recovered daily, and in two or three weeks was in perfect health."

The decoction was made by boiling an ounce of the chips in a pint and quarter of water, till reduced to a pint, a wine-glassful of which was taken four times a day.

CHALYBEATE WATER.—During a short visit to Brighton, we employed a few leisure hours in examining the water of a chalybeate spring, discovered a few years since about a mile and a half from the town, in the road leading to Worthing. The water rises into a stone basin, and is constantly overflowing through an aperture. To the olfactory nerves an escape of sulphuretted hydrogen gas was evident. The results of the experiments, the few tests we could obtain in Brighton enabled us to make, satisfied our minds that this water is, with respect to the quantity of iron, not inferior to the water of the Spa at Tunbridge as a tonic, but on account of containing a greater proportion of the sulphate of magnesia, superior to it.

The proportion of its component parts (in a gallon of water) we ascertained to be as follows:

Oxyds of iron about	6 grains,
Muriate of Magnesia	45 grains,
Muriate of lime	6 grains,
Muriate of soda	4 grains.

We did not discover a sulphate.

The water is therefore a valuable tonic, and with so potent an auxiliary as the sea air, is capable of acting powerfully on debilitated constitutions. The muriate of magnesia is in sufficient quantity to obviate the constipating quality of the iron. In case a more active aperient be deemed necessary, two or three drachms of the Epsom or Cheltenham salt may be dissolved in a pint of the water, by which means an aperient *chalybeate* water may be produced, very superior to the Cheltenham or any other chalybeate aperient in this country, and with the advantage of sea air may be taken with considerable advantage in cases of diseases of the skin, asthma, indigestion, and a variety of chronic diseases attended with *general debility* of the system. The walk, or ride, from Brighton to the spa, will also powerfully promote its restorative effects on debilitated constitutions. The internal and external use is also very likely to prove very beneficial in obstinate or cancerous ulcerations.

The chalybeate water of Brighton, as well as that of Tunbridge, is much deteriorated in consequence of the escape of fixed air (in excess in both) and the sulphuretted hydrogen gas, which takes place on being exposed so long in the basin. In all cases, where the use of iron is necessary, the carbonic and sulphuretted hydrogen gas are very powerful auxiliaries.

EDUCATION OF FEMALES.—Sirs, It has often very forcibly struck me, on visiting my daughters at a boarding-school in the neighbourhood of London, that nothing has contributed more to render females unhealthy than the practice of punishing youth for inattention and negligence by depriving them of their meals, or by exposing them to ridicule by placing them in a conspicuous part of the school, with some badge of disgrace, as, "the fool's cap," or by sending them to bed many hours before the usual time. By such modes of punishment the constitution is often irreparably injured. It is at the period of life which is devoted to education, that the

health of the body and mind should be established. By ridicule, or sense of shame, the energy of the mind of many a female of sensible feelings has been destroyed for ever. It is a common saying with governesses, "that the bird that can sing, and will not sing, must be made to sing." This adage may apply to youth; but I do conceive that it is a nice point to determine, if a young lady possesses the power of performing the task that is imposed on her, and when she does not possess the capacity, it is cruel in the extreme to punish her for supposed obstinacy, by depriving her either of her meals or amusement, or by doubling her tasks, a common practice with some governesses. By the latter mode of punishment many a young person has been rendered idiotic for life. Here I might introduce the particulars of a case of a young gentleman who died of a disordered brain, in consequence of the punishment to which he had been almost daily subjected by his master, who attributed his apparent stupidity to obstinacy. The exertion the poor boy made to learn his tasks, brought on diseases of which he died. The system of sitting six or seven hours daily is also very bad for females. Education should be made a source of amusement to youth, and by rewarding the attentive, keeping up a proper spirit of emulation, and proportioning the tasks to their natural capacity, this is practicable. As this is a very important subject, I hope, Messrs. Editors, you will occasionally favour your readers with some remarks on it. I am, Sirs, your obedient Servant, JANE W.

Oct. 26, 1819.

The situation of a school, with respect to air and soil, should be duly considered by parents. At Dorking, in Surrey, a place which is unquestionably the most healthy spot in this kingdom, a school has been lately opened for young gentlemen from four to eight years of age, by two very respectable ladies (the Misses Moore). The establishment and preservation of the health of their scholars are with them objects of as great importance as the instruction of their minds. The sage counsel of the wisest man is there judiciously put into practice, of "training up a child in the way he should go." The children on their return home are found to be materially improved in body as well as in mind. The most anxious and unremitting endeavours of the governesses being directed to their moral conduct, they will also be found to have a great reverence for the truth. This recommendation of the school the Editors insert from their own knowledge of its many superior advantages.

MEDICAL JURISPRUDENCE.—Sirs, No department of medicine has been more successfully cultivated by the moderns than that of Medical Jurisprudence; but that the public may derive the full advantages of its present state of perfection, it appears to me that it should form a part of the education of those gentlemen who are brought up to the bar. The necessity of such education I think must appear obvious to every medical man who has given his evidence in a court of justice on a case connected with medicine. A few days ago I was much amused by the observations of a *learned* counsel on the evidence given by that able professor of animal medicine, Mr. Coleman, and on the opinion he had given of the unsoundness of a horse. The professor had stated, that a "strong predisposition ex-

isted in the horse to a disease." The *learned* gentleman dwelt much on the word "predisposition:" he contended with great ingenuity, and with all the force of his gesticulating powers, (which from the prominence of his features were very imposing) and an air of great consequence, that "every *animal* as well as *Christian* was born with a predisposition to disease; and, Gentlemen of the Jury," said he, "surely *we* are not to be pronounced *unsound because we are here as directed by Providence!!!*"

The jury agreed with the *learned* gentleman that *Christians* are not animals, that man is in fact not an animal, but, as the Psalmist says, a "worm," and a worm is both a mineral and a vegetable, for it sometimes grows with minerals, and sometimes pops out of the earth like the sprout of a pea. The horse was accordingly declared sound!! The *scientific pathological characteristics of an unsound* horse, pointed out by the *learned* gentleman, proved that he was totally unacquainted with the professional meaning of the word "predisposition," provided he did not intentionally give it a false construction. Another witness was asked, because he pushed up the hair of his head with his fingers, if he was a maker of patent brushes? The witness replied, that he was not, but that he thought he could make as good brushes as the patent ones. The learned counsel very *wittily* observed, "I thought you had been, *because* you were *brushing* your hair with your fingers!!!" To me this digression from the subject before the court appeared very extraordinary, and on asking the counsel on the other side, what patent brushes had to do with the cause, he replied, "A great deal; by confusing the witness, he may be *successfully* cross-examined—His answers may not correspond —If his memory should in consequence fail him, it may be made to appear to the jury, that he has some unworthy motive for not being able to answer the interrogatories without hesitation, and the confused manner in which he may give his evidence, may admit of *pointed* observations or insinuations on summing up to the jury." By such arts as these, and by the gift of the gab, many a villain has been let loose on society. To the credit of the gentlemen of the Bar, few descend to trick and artifice, for the purpose of misrepresentation, or protecting villany, and those who do, on inquiry, are generally found to have acquired the art in some low court, as the Old Bailey, &c. where to badger a witness in a most vulgar strain of insulting questions and insinuations for the purpose of obtaining an acquittal of a prisoner, is by some deemed "science of the law," although he knows the person to be a villain. The police magistrates of this country find thieves to be the best men to employ to catch a thief. Employ a thief to catch a thief, is, indeed, an old saying, and for the same reason, surely the most proper man to employ to defend a *thief* is a *thief*, or a man who is in *want* of every honourable feeling, and as well acquainted with trick and artifice as his *respectable client*.

For your next number, I intend to send you some remarks on the opinion lately published by Mr. Tupper on "Innate Disposition," and on the changes produced by the exertion of the different professions and trades, on the physiognomical characters of the face. I am, Gentlemen, your very obedient servant, JAMES UPRIGHT.

July 20, 1829.

GAZETTE OF HEALTH.

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Of Sir CHRISTOPHER PEGGE, Knt.

Regius Professor of Physic, and Lecturer on Anatomy in the University of Oxford; late Physician to the Radcliffe Infirmary; and a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of London.

This Medical Luminary of Oxford, is a grandson of the late Rev. Dr. Pegge, a LL. D. of Cambridge, Rector of Whittington, and Vicar of Heath, in the county of Derby; Prebendary of Lichfield and Lincoln, and a Member of the Society of Antiquaries; a gentleman much esteemed by the most learned characters of his day, for his literary acquirements, and particularly his numerous contributions to the *Archæologia*; for forty-seven Memoirs in the *Bibliotheca Topographica Britannica;* and his sincere attachment to the "loaves and fishes." A biographical sketch of this learned Divine appears in the Gentleman's Magazine, for the year 1796. The father of Sir Christopher (the late Samuel Pegge, Esq.) was a Barrister of the Inner Temple, and a Groom of his late Majesty's "*Most Honourable Privy Chamber;*" to which he was appointed by the late Duke of Devonshire, at that time Lord Chamberlain of the King's Household.

In the year 1782, Master Christopher, having received what is considered a good country education, was sent to Oxford, to cultivate an acquaintance with the classics. He first entered as a Commoner at Christ Church College, where he took the degree of A. B. About six years afterwards, the interest of the patron of this branch of the Pegge family (the Duke of Devonshire) was successfully exerted in procuring for him a fellowship of Oriel College. The following year he was admitted, as a matter of course, to the degrees of M. A. and M. B. In 1790 he returned to Christ Church College, when he was appointed Dr. Lee's *Reader* on Anatomy. The Museum contains a few valuable preparations, the principal of which were presented to the University by the late Dr. Cheston, of Gloucester; but when compared to those of Edinburgh, Paris, and, indeed, the private one of Mr. Brookes, of the Theatre of Anatomy in London, it is indeed, as a foreign Professor of Medicine observed on inspecting it, "*pauvre, tres pauvre.*" During the time Sir Christopher Pegge filled the chair, he professed to deliver two courses of lectures annually; but in this first school of medicine in Europe, as it is represented by the London College of Physicians, the lecturer had seldom an opportunity of displaying his anatomical knowledge, in consequence of the non-attendance of students!! The learned Professor employing preparations to demonstrate the structure and form of the human body, the air of the theatre was perfectly sweet;

and when the subject of a lecture was fit for female eyes, Sir Christopher was often honoured with the attendance of ladies, by the invitation of Lady Pegge. On these occasions Sir Christopher often condescended to converse with his female visitors, and the discussion was sometimes so scientific and so ably kept up by some of the elderly ladies, that the wondering young ones were at a loss to determine who was really the teacher. Sir Christopher, on the conclusion of a lecture, generally met with the most gratifying applause, and the ladies in particular congratulated him on his "pleasing mode of delivery, and his beautiful simplicity of description." In the mechanism of the human body, Sir Christopher has not yet made any discovery—and in physiology he has not ventured on any new opinion.

In 1789 he boldly commenced the practice of medicine in Oxford, and about three years afterwards took the degree of M. D. on which occasion he passed no examination touching his *medical* knowledge. In 1801 he succeeded the late Dr. Vivian, as Regius Professor of Medicine, and in nine years afterwards he was appointed physician to the Radcliffe Infirmary. Although this is the only hospital in this University, Sir Christopher was seldom attended by more than one pupil, an acquaintance with the writings of the antients being considered of more importance than experience to form a *regular* physician; and hence the graduates in medicine, of this University and of Cambridge, where the same system prevails, take precedence in the metropolis of the physicians of all other Universities!! It has been said, that the Radcliffe Infirmary is the first School in the world to obtain a knowledge of diseases, because there the pupils have the advantage of seeing them in their different stages, in consequence of their running their course, or, as an English physician observed on visiting an hospital in Paris, "Diseases here have fair play."

In 1816 Sir Christopher resigned his appointment in Oxford, from the supposition that the classic air of the university (probably in consequence of being strongly impregnated with attic salt) aggravated the asthmatic affection to which he had been long subject. He now resides in London, the air of which he finds to agree with him.

To Sir Christopher the medical world is not under any obligation for the publication even of a single case or observation; and his life is therefore only entitled to notice for the high situations he has held in an university, which our College of Physicians would have the public to suppose, is the first school of medicine in Europe. When Sir Christopher condescended to take up his residence in London, it was supposed by some licentiates, that the College of Physicians would have solicited him, as a matter of course, to accept the presidency; but no such request, we believe, has yet been made.

Sir Christopher, having been satisfied with the medical education the university of Oxford afforded, we need not speak of his professional abilities. During his residence in Oxford, our correspondent informs us, he was considered "a good kind of a domestic man,—and

if in the exercise of the office of physician he did no good, he certainly did no harm."—We wish we could say as much of all the physicians of the English universities.

During a severe indisposition about ten years ago, Sir Christopher had the good sense to place himself under the care of the late Doctor Cheston, of Gloucester, notwithstanding the Doctor was of the class of physicians which the graduates of the English universities denominate *irregular*, with the worthy motive of prejudicing the public against them. Sir Christopher was *then* satisfied that the physician who received his education in the school of surgery, chemistry, and pharmacy, is the only one to whom an invalid can with safety entrust his life. To the judicious management of that physician, Sir Christopher is indebted for his recovery.

Sir Christopher's Biographical Sketch of himself appears in a late publication, entitled, "Authentic Memoirs of eminent Physicians and Surgeons in England"—a very pretty specimen of impartial or modest biography.

ON THE CAUSES WHICH IMPEDE THE PROGRESS OF MEDICINE.—"GENTLEMEN,—The following observations perhaps may be considered as an *appropriate sequel* to a late communication of mine, "*on the state of medicine.*" I am, Gentlemen, with respect, your obedient servant,

"Oxford, July 27, 1820. "RICHARD WALKER,
"Surgeon-Apothecary."

"*First.*—The science or art of medicine is, in its nature, independently of the various collateral sciences connected with it, the most *mysterious*, *difficult*, *and fallacious*, of any science or art the human mind is employed upon. In all other sciences, (excepting such as depend exclusively upon deductions from *reasoning* alone,) knowledge of facts is obtained and registered, which facts are in themselves self-evident, consequently incontrovertible and permanent, through succeeding generations; each generation adding something to the previously existing stock, equally self-evident and permanent; and thus, *here*, useful knowledge is constantly accumulating, without danger of error or deception: it is far otherwise in *medicine*.

"In medicine, a few self-evident facts excepted such as the *direct* and *indirect* effects of certain drugs possessing sensibly active properties, operating almost exclusively upon the *primæ viæ*;—the whole art of medicine, respecting its efficacy on disease, is enveloped in *mystery*, or subject to *fallacy*, respecting its expected or wished-for effect; to which we may add, the *obscurity*, and in some instances, hitherto *impenetrable* nature of certain affections: there is however the consolation respecting such affections, as we may infer from the fallacious effects of medicine upon certain other diseases *within* our knowledge, that those affections are beyond the reach of *medical art*. It commonly, or almost always happens in the *physical department*, not equally so in *surgery*, that in the detection of a fatal disease after death, which had evaded the discernment of a practitioner during life, there follows the satisfaction that the *nature* of the disease was such as to have precluded all hope of relief from medicine.

The pursuance of *medical pathology* is by no means to be discouraged; but from what I have witnessed in it, which is not little, I have no reason to alter my opinion. Many cases which fall thus under inspection, arise from natural causes, not to have been averted or even corrected; others, from indiscretion in the mode of living, which nothing could have obviated or amended, but an *alteration in the mode of living* itself: so that, in fact, the *curative art*, or the *invalid*, derive but little advantage from those investigations with regard to the *medical department*.

"*Secondly.*—Admitting the truth of the former *general* position, I would proceed to state briefly, the particular, or incidental causes of the *slow* and uncertain, or fallacious progress in medicine. Among these I cannot omit the palpable imperfection in the mode, or rather shortness of period allowed and practised, in *preparing* the *medical student* for *actual practice*, alluded to in my last communication. It is true that his mind may be sufficiently stored with the *auxiliary branches* of medicine; viz.—*anatomy*, *physiology*, *chemistry*, &c.; and his superior knowledge in those languages which enables him to become acquainted with the opinions of antient authors, is not without its use: but all these circumstances concur in placing him many years backwarder as an *experienced practitioner*, than the *surgeon*, *surgeon-apothecary*, or *apothecary*, who commence their professional education much earlier. Moreover, it frequently or commonly happens, that the young physician's attention to his *direct* profession is diverted by lecturing for emolument, on those collateral or auxiliary branches of medicine, not immediately connected with *practice*, and in which, it is presumed, he was sufficiently competent before: and finally, in addition to all this, the *more* he becomes *the man of the world*, the *less* will he be an EFFICIENT *physician:* with the utmost efforts, including all opportunities, *approximation* only, to perfection, is attainable.

"*Thirdly.*—The *extreme difficulty*, in many instances, of separating what cures or amendments in a patient are assignable *exclusively* to the *medicine* administered; or this, *conjointly with nature*; or to nature alone, or some other incidental cause. I am well assured, were Nature to speak for herself, she would be compelled, not unfrequently to say to the physician, "you attach that merit to yourself which belongs to me." In adverse instances, I apprehend, Nature would too often have occasion to say to the physician, "But for you I should have saved the patient." It is the accommodating disposition of the friends of a patient, as it is the pride of the practitioner, to attribute every change for the *better* to the medicine, and every change for the *worse* to nature.*

"Hence arises that perpetual inundation of fresh *specifics*, &c.,

* "It is not to be denied that nature too commonly requires the *regulating aid* of the physician, but it likewise sometimes happens that he is over officious. It is a matter of great surprise and regret to me, in reflecting how little *regimen*, in many instances, the *better part* of the medical art is attended to, or even *understood*, by the generality of the faculty, physicians as well as surgeons."

called, and registered as *remedies*, but falsely so. Hence arises, also, the uncertain, or *fluctuating* and *vacillating* state of the MATERIA MEDICA.* I have now been in the active practice of medicine, conjointly with surgery, nearly fifty years; have witnessed the several revolutions the *medical Pharmacopœia* has undergone in the course of that time, and, upon a candid review, am compelled to declare, the real acquisition, in the course of that time, with respect to *effective medicines*, is almost too inconsiderable to merit notice. The best face I can put upon it is, that *improving chemistry* has produced *modifications* of the various medicines formerly in use, with *better effect*.

"An Infirmary, or medical hospital, where cases of every description, and of every degree, are perpetually occurring, is incomparably the best adapted for medical or chirurgical information. What would be the state of practical knowledge in a *physician* or *surgeon*, at the best period of his life, confined to his own *individual practice*? Residence in an Infirmary, even out of the metropolis, for any length of time, with the advantage of seeing and attending to *all* the cases, and conferring with *all* the faculty, fresh ones as well as long standers, is, I may venture to say, superior, with respect to obtaining *practical precision* and *certainty*, respecting the nature of diseases, and the *actual power of medicine* over them, than *thrice* that time occupied solely in *private individual practice*. It is to the very length of time I passed at the Infirmary, possessing every advantage that could be wished for,—the attendance, by indulgence, of repeated courses of lectures of every kind,—and even the advantage of retaining, *virtually*, a portion *of medical and surgical* patients to my own management, that I owe that knowledge, chiefly, which enables me, and justifies me, I apprehend, in so boldly and confidently appreciating the *actual power of medicine* over disease; and the causes which act at present, and I am apprehensive are likely to continue, as impediments in the way of *improvement* and *ultimate perfection*, humanely speaking, in the Science or Art of Medicine.

"Unfortunately, however, from the various causes I have assigned, the practice of medicine, upon the whole, or in a general way, is confined to a *routine* kind of practice, in which more art or ingenuity is employed in obtaining *fees*, than *zeal* in improving the science. This evil arises, in addition to other causes be-

* "It is easier to introduce an *imaginary remedy* into practice than to negative it, nor is it easy to remove it when it has once obtained a place in the Pharmacopœia. *Medicine*, or *physic*, is, in reality, a *scientific art*, in which experimental facts are of infinitely more importance than laboured theories; and it is to a *faithful record* of those that medicine must owe, chiefly, its progressive improvement; and those facts, fairly and incontrovertibly established, by the test of repeated, undeviating experience, reduced into a kind of system. It perhaps will be deemed no small degree of arrogance in me to assert that I have undertaken, and nearly completed, something more than a *sketch* of such a plan;—such, however, is the fact."

fore mentioned, in consequence of medicine not admitting of that universal and *open* investigation which other sciences do, and the *scanty portion* of opportunity of experience, in proportion to the immense and intricate nature of the subject, allotted to *each individual practitioner*, and the *needful policy* of occasionally withholding unpleasant facts.

"The private practitioner lives, and if he be fortunate, obtains eminence, by cases, chiefly, that would not *interest* a person purely *scientifically* medical: here is a total loss, or waste of attention towards progressive improvement in the Science, which, as knowledge advances, should be stored in the Medical Repository, as *established data* for succeeding practitioners to profit by; but unfortunately, as medicine is taught and practised, (some general system excepted,) chiefly hypothetical, there are no fixed, determinate, accumulating *data* for practice, for fresh beginners to *start* upon; but, instead of this, each *successive* generation of practitioners, like the *preceding* ones, have, as it were, to begin "*de novo*;" to wade through this field of waste, before they arrive at that standard of professional knowledge which might enable them to furnish some further acquired *data* for their successors.

"Whoever penetrates sufficiently far in the knowledge of physic, will unfortunately find medicine does not possess that *omnipotent power* over disease, that younger practitioners are prone to attribute to it, or as it might be wished: and moreover, if his practice and attention be *sufficient*, he will perceive that *mist* of doubt and uncertainty, inseparable from an *ordinary* knowledge in the profession, dissipate or *vanish*; and he will clearly discern the actual impermeable limits by which the power of the *medical art* is bounded, despising the vain attempts of the ignorant, or less *experienced to pass it*; neither deluding the friends of the patient with false hopes, nor depressing his patient with an air of *scepticism*; nor above all, to annoy his patient with nauseating, unavailing medicines.

"How have I witnessed, for years, the unavailing annoyance to patients, already overwhelmed with a painful sickening disease—*Cancer*, by the internal exhibition of *Hemlock*; the deleterious effects of *Foxglove*, and various other *proposed remedies* for *Consumption*, *&c. &c.*, in endless unavailing succession!—and even the constant attempt, by some, of discovering a *specific remedy* for *Scrofula!!* It should be recollected that there is no analogy or warrant for such expectations from the circumstance of *Syphilis* having its reputed specific, or rather *antidote*; this originating, not from a *natural organic affection*, but from an *animal poison*. I have no doubt that numbers of persons who daily fall victims to *pulmonary consumption*, by reliance on inefficacious medicines, the *common routine* of the profession, might be preserved by means which I have already pointed out, (*Medical and Physical Journal for April and May* 1814), but unfortunately these means are apparently *too simple* to be attended to

"With respect to myself, I should as soon attempt to discover the philosopher's stone, as a *direct remedy* or *specific* for certain

organic diseases; and yet I have constantly witnessed, and continue to see and hear of such fruitless attempts.

"And moreover, the profession from its nature, not admitting of free open intercourse of the practitioners with cases, or diseases, *ad libitum*, nor with each other, excepting in rare instances; nor admitting of a division of the whole into *distinct departments*, allotted to select individuals, or classes of individuals;* nor admitting of

* "I would observe here, that in early ages, or the *infant state* of the *healing art*, physic and surgery both might be easily practised by one individual, the knowledge then being confined to fewer points; but afterwards, as knowledge improved and extended, it necessarily divided itself into two distinct branches, as it now is. Hence the obvious fact is, that consolidation of the different branches of medicine and surgery, as in the instance of the *Apothecary* and *Surgeon-Apothecary*, became necessary *merely* for the accommodation of certain classes of persons, and such as were locally situated, who do not possess the opportunity, ordinarily, of procuring the advice or attendance of the *separate* practitioners; but it never, I apprehend, can be maintained, as some professional gentlemen contend for, that such consolidation, *upon a general scale*, would benefit the public or improve the professions. All ranks of persons, where the opportunity is equal, prefer the *separate practitioner* in each branch, and seek his attendance in urgent cases.

"Thus it follows that this *consolidation*, for the accommodation of the public, operates (in proportion as it robs the *principals* of a portion of practical experience, especially the junior physicians) as an impediment, and in no small degree, to the *improvement* of both the branches, but particularly the *medical*.

"The profession, by-the-bye, of an Apothecary, or Surgeon-Apothecary, especially in a large town, is not a very enviable one; since, by the physician he is considered as a mere *mongrel kind* of practitioner; and by the public, as the mere *substitute*, or *locum tenens* of a physician, whatever may be the *degree* of *his* medical knowledge, or the *inexperience* of the *physician*, both undiscoverable by the patient or attendants, which occasionally places him in a most degrading, mortifying situation; especially as he advances in years, and matures in practical knowledge. So soon as the state of the patient becomes critical, or alarming, or merely imagined so by the friends of the patient, or *officious gossips*, the physician is called in—if the patient dies, the *doctor* was called in *too late*; if he recovers, the *doctor saved him*.

"Ignorant persons imagine there is something *mystical* in the very word PHYSICIAN: it were impossible to convince *them* that *equal knowledge* in the medical profession is attainable by an *Apothecary*, or *Surgeon-Apothecary*; or that superior knowledge in this, as in other instances, depends upon *superior discernment*, *opportunity*, and *attention*; others are occasionally influenced by *pride*, or *etiquette*. This is all very natural:—I speak *sincerely* when I say, I regret that the medical knowledge of the physician is not *always equal* to their estimation."

fair competition; to which I may add the indispensably necessary attention, in the better experienced in private practice, to trivial cases, which, particularly in higher life, produce the far greater portion of emolument.

"With respect to *Surgery*, the other branch of the HEALING ART, I shall merely observe, it may be considered, as somewhat *less* as a Science, and more of an Art, than *Physic—Operative Surgery*, almost entirely so,—its diseases and affections more obvious to the senses, and the remedies more *directly* applied to the evil, and their effects more readily appreciated. Hence it is not to be wondered at that *surgery* has reached a much higher degree of comparative perfection than physic; and this is the more fortunate, because its diseases and affections, it must be allowed, are, upon the whole, more important; and likewise, since the utmost perfection the *medical profession* could reach, would fall very far short, respecting *actual means* of relief, than in the instance of *surgery*. It must not be concealed, however, that surgery, as well as physic, is not without its *opprobria* in the profession.

"An ignorant physician, possessing *patronage*, and a *good address*, may reach eminence, and acquire wealth; but this can never happen to an ignorant surgeon, unless he be fortunate enough to have no intelligent, experienced *competitor:* the *actual merits* of a physician are not so readily appreciated by persons *out of the profession*, as those of a surgeon. The ability of delivering a *correct prognostic* is the best *ostensive* test of a physician's practical knowledge.

"The science or art of physic is too apt, even at this day, to become the scorn or ridicule of persons of *too little faith* in medicine, and the disappointment of those, whose hopes have improperly been raised *too high;* this arises from the *natural imperfection* in the profession itself, and to the fruitless attempts of the ignorant to effect that which is utterly *beyond the reach* of medicine;—to such, it is not at all wonderful the science of physic should appear to be in a state of *infancy*.

"An ignorant practitioner in medicine *tries every thing* which suggests itself to him, under the influence that if *he* fails in curing an obstinate disease, *no one else* shall succeed; while the thoroughly experienced practitioner, willingly, and with indifference, resigns *incurable cases, known to him* as such, to others, without any such apprehension.

"Be it remembered, however, that though unfortunately there are medical diseases, which from their nature, and the defective power of human art, are *incurable;* yet there is no case, even to the last, that does not admit of *palliation*, or *comfort*, from the medical art, judiciously applied.

"I have thus attempted to point out, *boldly*, and *without reserve*, the existing causes, which impede, contrary to what occurs in other sciences, the *progressive improvement*, and *ultimate perfection*, of the *medical branch* of the HEALING ART; and have only to add, that I should be extremely gratified at the prospect of their *ceasing to exist.*"

PRUSSIC ACID.—A Dr. Elliotson has published the results of the numerous trials he has made with this powerful remedy in his hospital and private practice. The favourable reports of the effects of the prussic acid in complaints of the chest, published by the celebrated Magendie and some medical practitioners of the metropolis, induced Dr. Elliotson to commence his experiments with it in those affections. He accordingly prescribed it for a patient of the name of Ann Lee, who was admitted a patient of St. Thomas's Hospital, for a "disorder of the lungs." Having another patient of the same name in the hospital, whose complaint was "violent spasms and flatulence of the stomach," the prussic acid was by mistake administered to the wrong patient—a circumstance highly creditable to the apothecary, and by no means uncommon in the London hospitals. To this mistake the learned doctor acknowledges himself to be indebted for the discovery of "the extraordinary efficacy of this remedy in derangements of the stomach." From the numerous cases the doctor has taken from his "note books to establish the decisive important fact which has established the power of the acid over derangement of the stomach," we select the two following, as affording the strongest evidence in its favour:

"Dec. 17, 1819.—A woman aged 47, has been *variously* afflicted for a month. There are *pains* in the extremities, a *pain* at the pit of the stomach, and a *pain* in the head irregularly alternating in violence: the pit of the stomach feels tight to *her*, and is tender on pressure—She has a cough, and the bowels are torpid."

The doctor ordered two drops of the prussic acid to be taken three times a day, "and the dose to be gradually increased to four drops, and taken with syrup of buckthorn." On the 21st she had "much less pain of the stomach and head, and much less cough: the feeling of tightness at the pit of the stomach diminished, the pains in the limbs were as before." On the 24th she was pronounced to be well.

"August 5.—Sarah Johnson, aged 50,—very ill one month, but more or less for three years—Pain at the pit of the stomach."

The doctor ordered four drops to be taken three times a day, and the dose to be gradually increased to *twelve*. On the 14th she said she was better, but "felt cold after taking the medicine," on which account he ordered it "to be taken no longer in *plain* but in *peppermint* water." On the 21st, "no pain whatever—feels weak, and trembles." He ordered the remedy to be continued. On the 28th, the trembling less—bowels costive, he ordered the dose of the acid to be reduced to four drops, and the bowels to be kept open by the compound extract of bitter apple. The patient was on this day pronounced cured.

The first of these cases some of our medical readers will consider to belong more to the doctor's class of "affections of the chest," than of the stomach; at any rate the lungs were as much affected as the stomach. In a case of indigestion, few practitioners would employ the syrup of buckthorn as a vehicle for the acid or any other remedy. The experiments the doctor has made with the prussic acid have satisfied *his* mind of its "power over affections of the stomach." Although he is "convinced of its *peculiar* power, that

it is far superior to every other remedy in tranquillising the stomach, and is *exactly* what has been always a *desideratum* for affections of the stomach, I am not," says he, "so absurd as to wish it to be believed a specific in such diseases, and, in fact, I could relate many instances of its failure." We are sorry the doctor has not noticed the symptoms of the cases in which the remedy failed; for the unfortunate results of experiments, in cases of disease, are as instructive to young practitioners as the most fortunate ones. The prussic acid is unquestionably a very powerful sedative; and in those cases of indigestion in which it succeeded, the stomach was evidently in a state of morbid excitement. In the cases in which it failed to afford relief, and in which we are credibly informed it proved injurious, the nerves of the stomach were in an opposite state; and, of course, a remedy capable of diminishing nervous action, was not likely to prove beneficial. The doctor does not seem to be aware that indigestion is the consequence of opposite conditions of the stomach,—namely, increased excitement and diminished excitement. Some of the patients who derived benefit from the prussic acid under his care, he modestly asserts, had consulted, "in vain, various practitioners, both regular and irregular." To what class the learned doctor belongs, he does not condescend to inform his readers. If we were to judge from the scientific manner in which he has related his cases, and from his practical remarks on the remedy, we should suppose that, instead of being a Physician to St. Thomas's Hospital, he held some appointment to the apothecary.

In affections of the chest, inflammatory or organic, for which the acid has been highly recommended by Dr. Magendie and others, it has disappointed Dr. Elliotson's expectation. When cough is independent of inflammation, or of organic disease, he has however found it "extremely valuable." In all the inflammatory cases in which he has "employed it, although even to sickness, he does not recollect one in which the abstraction of a single ounce of blood, or the exhibition of a single grain of calomel, was rendered less necessary by it." If administered in doses sufficient to lay the *whole* strength of the body prostrate, he thinks it may be *very serviceable* in subduing inflammations. If the *whole* power of the body was prostrated by such a remedy, it would indeed be pretty free from inflammation and fever.

In a case of inflammation of the lungs, no chiro-physician (a physician acquainted with surgery) would think of trusting to a sedative medicine. Such an experiment would indeed be cruel and unjustifiable. In this disease, the circulation soon becoming accelerated, the brain and nervous system disturbed, and the temperature of the body increased, the chiro-physician would consider the constitution to partake, as it were, of the disease, and so long as this was the case, no practitioner of observation and experience would suppose that a sedative, however powerful, was a proportionate remedy. The chiro-physician, proceeding on surgical principles, would adopt a treatment with a view of rendering the disease local, by unloading the system of blood-vessels, emptying the intestinal canal, and producing a conducting surface, either by

means of warm water, or by the exhibition of a sudorific medicine. Having thus localized the disease, or converted an inflammatory disease into a mere irritative one, or rather active inflammatory into mere inflammatory excitement, he would then have recourse to a sedative remedy, and in this state of the malady the exhibition of the prussic acid would be attended with the most happy result.

The prudent physician, however, in order to insure its sedative effects on the affected organ, would produce a determination of nervous fluid to another part of the body by a blister. The doctor's confession, that of all the inflammatory cases in which he has employed the prussic acid, although even to sickness, he does not recollect one in which the abstraction of a single ounce of blood, or the exhibition of *a single grain of calomel (!!!)* was rendered less necessary by it, is preposterous in the extreme. The doctor is a convert to a doctrine lately broached by a contemptible scribbler, (who, in a theatrical style, occasionally makes an attempt to broach something new), that calomel allays inflammatory action, or, in his own words, that it has an extraordinary *general* power of checking acute inflammation. "Of this," says he, "I am so certain, that were I to lose a patient from an *acute* inflammation, without having, in addition to bleeding, &c. made a *vigorous* attempt to affect the mouth by mercury, I should consider myself accessary to his death."!!!

Were we to adopt such a practice in cases of acute inflammation of the lungs, pleura, or brain, we should certainly consider ourselves proper subjects for a straight waistcoat. In cases of inflammatory action, mercury, according to the opinion of Dr. Elliotson, is a sedative, but in cases of debility it acts as a stimulus on the absorbent system!!! Is this *regular* or *irregular* consistency?

"In *simple dry cough*, without pain of the chest, constant dyspnœa (difficulty of breathing), or fever, whether in children or adults," the doctor's experiments have satisfied him, that it is "an *admirable* medicine, deserving all the accommodations which it has received." In hooping cough his experience does not justify his assent to the assertion of Dr. Granville, that "no case of hooping cough need be suffered to proceed longer than eight or ten days, if the prussic acid be timely and cautiously administered." The failure of the acid in his practice he attributes to the existence of inflammation, which he fancies is often attendant on hooping cough. The observations we have made on the employment of a sedative in cases of inflammation of the lungs, apply equally to hooping cough. The general health is often disturbed by this disease when the irritation runs high in the lungs, or extends to the diaphragm and stomach. During a paroxysm, there is often so great a determination of blood to the head as to disturb the brain and nervous system. In such a case the chiro-physician would localize the disease previous to the use of a sedative, and when that has been accomplished we have never been disappointed by the effects of the prussic acid in removing the disease in three days. In pulmonary consumption, and all organic diseases, the doctor has employed the prussic acid in vain. Now in a case of diseased structure, either of the lungs or

any viscus of the chest or abdomen, what effect could he expect from a sedative? It will allay pain, and render the disease quiescent; but on these accounts could he expect that it would effect a change of structure, or a removal of the diseased structure? In all cases of organic disease, the chiro-surgeon first directs his attention to the state of the constitution.

Having localized the disease, the next object is to render it quiescent by a sedative, and for this purpose he would employ as a sedative, the prussic acid or hemlock. He would then adopt a practice, with the view of removing the diseased structure. If it be situated internally, (not admitting of topical treatment) he would endeavour to bring the absorbent vessels into action, by the cautious exhibition of mercury, at the same time keeping an eye on the general health. The mercury he would not therefore push so far as to disturb the constitution. By keeping up the action of the absorbent vessels by the use of mercury, and by attending to the general health, we have succeeded in removing diseased structure of considerable extent. It is by this practice that Mr. Aldis has effected cures of cancerous affections of the breasts, &c. Plain and rational as this mode of treatment is, there is not a *regular* physician in this country that proceeds on it, or indeed any thing like a rational principle. By the term regular, we mean a physician who possesses a diploma from an university, in consequence of having kept a certain number of terms, and who is unacquainted with surgery and pharmacy.

Dr. Elliotson having "heard in conversation that very large doses of the antimonial febrifuge powder," (introduced into the Pharmacopœia, under the sanction of Dr. George Pearson, as the same preparation as Dr. James's powders), "are borne when the head is affected," without nauseating the stomach, or exciting perspiration, he boldly prescribed it for a John Readon, afflicted with asthma. On the 3d of February he commenced with five grains, (the usual dose) three times a day. On the 12th, being no better, the dose was increased to twenty grains, three times a day. On the 19th he was no better, but complained of nausea. The dose was increased to thirty grains. On the 26th, no nausea; the dose increased to forty grains, three times a day. March 4th, no better, no nausea—the dose increased to fifty grains. March 11th the patient was worse, but no nausea; the dose increased to sixty grains. The 18th the dose was increased to seventy grains, three times a day. On the 25th no nausea, no better; the dose increased to eighty grains. This case concludes with the remark—"*I saw him no more.*" This certainly was not very surprising; to us it appears somewhat extraordinary that he had seen him so often. Although the patient derived no benefit from the medicine, and was at one time worse, still it was continued in increased doses nearly two months!! In order that his readers might be able to judge how far they may regulate their practice by the result of this experiment, he should have noticed the age of the patient, and the state of his general health. When the stomach is in a languid state, and the general health has considerably given way to asthma, the antimonial febrifuge powder, in the dose of a

drachm, will have no nauseating effect; but when the stomach is in a state of irritation, five grains will excite vomiting. Its operation also greatly depends on its meeting with an acid in the stomach. As the learned Doctor was acquainted with the residence of his patient, we are surprised that he did not take the trouble to enquire as to the reason of his non-attendance at the hospital, and the effect of the last dose, and in case the *disease* had proved fatal, have solicited permission to examine his stomach and lungs. Whether the experiment is justifiable or a fair one, we shall leave to our *medical* readers to determine.

The tendency of all antimonial preparations to induce sickness, the doctor has ascertained to be greatly augmented by the addition of calomel; and therefore, says he, whenever a full and speedy *mercurial* effect is desired, nothing can be more injudicious than to unite it with antimony. The doctor confesses that he has seen patients LOST while taking a combination of this kind, who would probably have recovered, if given the same quantity of calomel alone."!!! That the *Doctor* has seen such cases, we firmly believe. How cautious then should invalids be, in the selection of a physician!

The Doctor, in his prefatory remarks, observes, that "he will yield to no man in his love of justice; and if he has not given the right owner the credit due to him, he will be grateful to any person to point out an observation that did not originate with him." The prussic acid has been a favourite remedy with some leading physicians in Italy for upwards of thirty years, and we believe we were the first that gave an account of its properties in this country. We are not, however, so unreasonable as to expect the Doctor to quote a work which would subject him to the censure of the College of Physicians, and of that class of *irregular* quacks, whose practice we have so fully exposed. For an account of the effects of opium, and the mode of exhibiting it in diabetes, this inflexible friend to justice is indebted to the Gazette of Health.

We shall conclude this article with the Doctor's *practical* remarks on the properties of the Prussic acid.

"I have found it useless when exhibited to subdue inflammation. In my hands it has always proved unable both to check inflammation of any organ, and to lessen the quickness and violence of the pulse when there was simply excessive action of the heart, or throbbing of the head, &c. Hence if the derangement of the stomach is accompanied by an inflammation of this part, leeches, blisters, &c. must be employed. This is a case of stomach disorder in which the common remedies,—camphor, æther, and aromatic waters, are not only inefficient, but detrimental. Sometimes, however, the epigastrium feels as if bruised (the ordinary effect of spasm) and is tender on pressure, and yet these symptoms disappear under the use of the acid; probably because they proceed from an inflammation not regularly established, but only kept up by the repeated spasm, and, when the recurrence of this is prevented, necessarily cease. Where leeches, blisters, &c. are requisite, it may be given at the same time or immediately afterwards, as its ordinary soothing effects upon the stomach will be no longer prevented by a morbid state of vessels.

"Neither do I find it useful as a general narcotic or anodyne. I have not above once or twice known it induce sleep, nor ever seen it relieve pain directly, excepting that about the epigastrium. It appears to operate *specifically* upon the stomach. So striking is this, that, although the benefits above described arise from its proper administration, an over dose will in every person occasion nausea, vomiting, and a pain and tightness of the præcordia. These effects take place even if it is applied externally in excess. It may be so employed as to overpower the system without any previous symptom whatever. For while I assert that it has a specific action on the stomach, I do not deny its direct influence upon the nervous system. The giddiness, fainting, &c. which it may be made to produce, might be explained by its influence on the stomach being communicated to other parts; but as these and its fullest effects may be induced by its external application in great strength even to the eye, the denial of its direct agency upon the nervous system as well as upon the stomach would be childish.

"I should fear that it must prove but a palliative, and sometimes not even that, when the derangement of the stomach originates from a *structural* disease of the organ itself, or from sympathy with another. In tuberculous disease of the abdomen, the stomach often sympathises, experiencing nausea, vomiting, and a broiling heat with excruciating pain. I have seen this in children, and found it very difficult to mitigate, but shall now certainly expect more from the acid than from any thing else. In the vomiting of fevers and autumnal bilious diseases, the remedy deserves a trial. These are all cases in which it can be exhibited but as an auxiliary, and whenever a morbid state of another organ is detected,—of the liver, intestines, &c. this should of course be treated in the usual manner, as there is always a possibility of this being connected with the affection of the stomach.

"When the function only of the stomach itself is disturbed, the remedy should be given two or three weeks after a cure appears effected. And when such is the case, we must recollect that the derangement is so frequently habitual, and excited by circumstances in the mode of living, state of mind, &c. &c. which still exist, that a recurrence of the symptoms may sooner or later be expected, and the medicine be again required. This I have seen after a lapse of six, nine, or twelve months, but the return has been such as to yield more readily than before, if treated early.

"The dose (without alluding to any particular complaint,) has a very small range. Almost any adult will bear one or two minims; few more than five; three are generally borne and required, and very frequently four. One woman in consumption took twelve minims three times a day without inconvenience or benefit: eighteen brought on vomiting and giddiness. The youngest infant will bear a quarter of a minim,—half a drop, (a minim of it contains two ordinary drops) and little good is usually derived from less than half a minim. Many children a few years old bear a minim and a half. The first dose, therefore, for an adult may always be one or two minims; for a child a quarter of a minim; and the dose of the former may be

augmented half a minim and the latter a quarter of a minim every second day, till either benefit is derived, or the medicine begins to disagree. In the latter case, the dose must of course be diminished sufficiently to agree.

"With this precaution the medicine may be always exhibited without inconvenience. For the increase is so gradual, that whatever disagreement occurs is so small as to be a warning rather than an inconvenience. An inclination to vomit or a little giddiness is among the first signals for the dimunition of the dose. An over dose occasions vomiting, pain and tightness of the stomach, faintness, and giddiness. These effects, however, soon cease.

"I have always ordered the acid to be taken every eight hours; as more frequent, though smaller, doses are both troublesome to the patient, and do not so well enable a practitioner to observe the increase of effect. It should not be taken, at least in the accustomed dose, the first thing in the morning, for I have repeatedly observed that what was a suitable dose in the middle of the day and in the evening, was too powerful before breakfast,—coming immediately in contact with the empty stomach.

"When coldness of the stomach is complained of, simple cold water cannot be drunk with propriety, and it is therefore better given in aromatic waters.—I often unite it with bitter infusions. But its virtues are perfectly independent of these vehicles, as I have proved by employing them in great variety, arbitrarily changing them, and then substituting plain water, while yet the good effects remained undiminished.

"I have not found it excite sickness more readily by being prescribed at the same time with the calomel or even such medicines as are always disposed to occasion nausea and vomiting, v. c. squils, digitalis, antimonial powder.

Since we wrote the above, we have received the information that a most flaming account of Dr. Elliotson's Work is to appear in a Quarterly Journal, to which he *has allowed* his name to be advertised as a patron. This most disgraceful system of puffing, and of editors and authors complimenting each other, and of editors puffing off their own works, we shall expose in an early Number.

MEADOW SAFFRON.—Dr. Williams, of Ipswich, has at length published his discovery of the medicinal virtues of the seeds of the Meadow Saffron.—"Daily observation," says the Doctor, "evinces the fallacy of the hopes which are continually attached to the almost innumerable host of remedies which different writers have recommended for the cure of that species of rheumatism usually termed *chronic*—a painful disease, attacking, principally the muscles and larger joints of the body, unaccompanied by fever or inflammation of the parts affected.

Of the properties of the Meadow Saffron Root, in gout and acute rheumatism, much has been said and written; but the Doctor believes the "salutary powers of the *seeds* of that plant are neither generally known, nor justly estimated, either in chronic rheumatism or any other disease." In administering the wine of the seeds to thirty-five patients, most of whom were severely afflicted with chronic rheu-

matism, the effects of this medicine astonished the Doctor by the early removal of pain, the progressive restoration of the use of the limbs, and the return of that salutary sleep, the want of which destroys all comfort, and embitters every enjoyment of life. To illustrate the anti-rheumatic powers of this Meadow Saffron wine, the Doctor has published four cases, in which the effects of the wine astonished the Doctor. From these we select the following:—

"John Burbridge, aged thirty, of Upper Orwell-street, Ipswich, requested my advice early in the autumn of 1817, being afflicted with severe pains in his loins, shoulders, and arms. He was free from fever, bowels regular, and appetite good. He followed the occupation of labourer and superintendant in a very extensive malting, for which, as an athletic man, of industrious habits, he was well adapted.

Not aware of having "*taken cold*" at an early period of his disease, J. B. attributed his sufferings to the sudden changes of heat and cold, as well as to the vapour arising from the wetted malt, to which he was necessarily exposed; and his malady had been gradually increasing for three years, *augmented* by continually restless nights. The doctor prescribed various medicines for him, during twelve months, without any material benefit; among which a course of mercury produced no relief. His spirits began to fall, and the future presented to him only the cheerless prospect of protracted disease, and the unavoidable necessity of relinquishing a situation which afforded the chief means of support to himself and family. "In this painful state it occurred to me, early in December, to advise a fluid dram, or a tea-spoonful of the Meadow Saffron seed wine, in a little ginger tea, twice in the day. After six days' trial of the medicine, he called upon me with the information that his pains had totally subsided; and a gradual increase of the dose to two spoonfuls for ten days longer, afforded me the satisfaction of finding him entirely free from disease. He continues in the same state to this period, following his usual occupation."

The Doctor has observed, that the distressing effects upon the stomach and bowels, too often produced by the concentrated tincture or infusion of the Meadow Saffron root, (the supposed basis of most of the pretended specifics for gout), has never occurred in administering the seeds in wine,* which he attributes principally to the seeds being free from that acrid quality so evidently prevalent in the root.

Indeed such is the uniform mildness with which this wine acts, that it requires no particular care in the patient, nor anxiety on the part of the medical attendant; and its effects have been always so pleasant, that the only sensible operation has arisen from its requisite action upon the bowels once or twice a day, and the comfortable support derived from it, which is so manifest to the patient, that an omission of one or two doses usually occasions a sensation of the absence of some invigorating power.

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* A preparation of the seeds in proof spirit is objectionable, being turbid, unpalatable, and disposed to precipitation.

"To ensure the full efficacy of the medicine, it is desirable that diet of a flatulent nature be avoided, especially fish, broths, gruel, milk, puddings, and undressed vegetables; at the same time a material diminution in the usual quantity of beer, tea, coffee, or chocolate, will prove highly advantageous to the patient, who, in yielding to these restrictions, may still enjoy the solid comforts of the table, with the conviction that he is thus diminishing pain, and promoting his recovery."

For making the wine of the Meadow Saffron seeds, Dr. Williams gives the following receipt:—Take of the Meadow Saffron seeds, two ounces; sherry wine, a pint; digest for eight or ten days, (shaking the bottle at intervals); then filter the liquor through paper, and keep it well corked for use.*

The quantity administered must be proportioned, of course, to the age and strength of the patient. With adults, the Doctor has usually commenced by giving one fluid drachm in a table-spoonful, or more, of some aromatic water, once or twice in the day, according to the violence or continuance of the disease, gradually increasing the dose to three fluid drachms, as circumstances may require, beyond which he has never found occasion to extend it. It should be taken two or three hours after breakfast, and repeated at bed time; but if the disease be mild, and of short duration, it may be requisite once only in the day, when the hour of going to bed seems to have the preference.

The Doctor adds,—"Having tried the extract, and a tincture prepared from the seeds and the aromatic spirit of ammonia, in the proportions just mentioned, each in two cases only, I am not competent to pronounce them efficacious to the extent my most sanguine hopes anticipate; but I think I may venture to predict, that these two preparations, and also the vinegar of the seeds, will be found very powerful remedies in subduing various convulsive, spasmodic, and other disorders to which mankind are liable, without the dire consequences too frequently produced by our more potent remedies.

With respect more especially to the wine, of the safety and efficacy of which he has experienced such abundant proof, "I cannot," says he, "contemplate an extensive use of it in many painful diseases, besides chronic rheumatism, without entertaining the hope and belief, that we have at length found the happy desideratum, a powerful, yet mild medicine, capable of substituting calmness, tranquillity, and balmy sleep, in the place of pain, weariness, and restless nights—a renovation of long-lost limbs and comparatively robust health, in lieu of feebleness and emaciation; in a word, affording to the poor, as well as to the rich, the cherishing prospect of prolonging life, and, during its continuance, an oblivion of many distressing pains."!!

In speaking thus favourably of the meadow saffron seeds, and

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* As the seeds contain a large quantity of mucilage, it is desirable to pass the preparation through Dutch blotting paper, before it is filtered in the usual manner.

recommending so earnestly their use to the profession, the Doctor observes,—"I am not urging the administration of a rare and expensive medicine, nor one which is difficult of access. A bountiful Providence has diffused around us in abundance, every blessing that tends to the enjoyment of life, and the amelioration of its evils; and the facility with which the plant may be procured, evinces that the remedy is as widely dispersed as the disease. Medical men, therefore, in collecting and applying the seeds to the purposes for which they were evidently designed, will confer an essential benefit on mankind, and gladden the hearts of thousands."

Dr. Williams, having discovered the wonderful powers of the seeds of the meadow saffron, in subduing so distressing a disease as rheumatism, two years anterior to the publication of his Observations on Dr. Wilson's Tincture, it is somewhat surprising to us that he did not notice it in that work. To defer the promulgation of a discovery for a period of three years, which he had so satisfactorily ascertained to be capable of "conferring an essential benefit on mankind, and of gladdening the hearts of thousands" of his fellow-creatures, afflicted with a most distressing malady, is not creditable to an author, who asserts in the advertisement of his work (on Dr. W.'s Tincture) that he is actuated only by a desire to benefit society. The case is, Dr. Wilson had presumed to attend weekly at Ipswich, to prescribe for patients. The effects of the tincture in gout and rheumatism, had brought him into great repute as a physician. Dr. Williams fancied he had discovered that Dr. Wilson's Tincture was a vinous infusion of the meadow saffron, and to acquaint the public with this supposed discovery, he published a pamphlet on the subject. The work, although industriously advertised in all the public papers, and puffed off by his friend Dr. Uwins, in the Medical Repository, did not sell, and even in Ipswich, and in the neighbourhood of Dr. Wilson's residence, where it was distributed gratuitously, the Doctor's attack on Dr. Wilson, and his tincture, failed to diminish the confidence of his readers in his abilities, and the virtues of the tincture: indeed those who were acquainted with the honourable views of Dr. Williams, became the friends of Dr. Wilson. Dr. Williams's first attack having, therefore failed to produce the desired effect, he has now very opportunely discovered, that the wine of the seeds of the meadow saffron possesses virtues superior to the root, and that it does not produce the distressing effects on the stomach and bowels, which so frequently follow the use of the latter!!!

We have ordered the wine of the meadow saffron seeds to be made at the Medical Hall, 170, Piccadilly, according to Dr. Williams's directions, in order that it may have a fair trial. If any of our readers should take or administer it, we shall be obliged by their acquainting us with its effects. We shall lose no time in prescribing it in those cases of rheumatism, for which we have been in the habit of recommending the tincture and wine of the root, that we may notice its properties in our next number.

INFLAMMATION OF THE INTESTINES.—GENTLEMEN,—If the following remarks are admissible, or thought worthy of in-

sertion in your valuable Gazette, you will oblige a friend by introducing them in your next number.

Dr. Uwins, in his report for May, in the Monthly Magazine, mentions a case of incipient inflammation of the intestines, which he successfully treated by bleeding, calomel, and opium, with purgatives, and castor oil externally applied to the abdomen; and attempts to assign his reasons for adopting that mode of treatment with calomel, opium, &c. as though the idea had first originated with himself.

Bleeding is the fashion, and of course it was ordered by him,—a man must swim with the stream. His reasoning, however, about opium and purgatives is by no means satisfactory. The opium must be conjoined with *calomel*, to make it efficacious in inflammation of the intestines; and when opium and calomel are given, in proper doses, they are sufficient to remove the *inflammation* without the aid of either bleeding, purgatives, or castor oil externally or internally. I don't mean to assert that other purgatives, or even castor oil, if the stomach can bear it, may not be administered when the pain and inflammation are abated, if necessary to assist in opening the bowels; but neither opium, purgatives, nor castor oil will remove the disease without calomel, nor will calomel succeed without opium. It was fortunate, therefore, for Dr. Uwins's patient that he did not leave out the calomel when he prescribed the opium, for had he done so, his external frictions with castor oil would not have saved the sufferer.

Well knowing the danger of inflammation of the intestines, and the inefficacy of bleeding, clysters, purgatives, &c. when Dr. Peart of Butterwick published his tract on Inflammation of the Bowels, and Strangulated Rupture, in which he strongly recommended calomel and opium, about eighteen or twenty years ago, I immediately determined to try the effect of his mode of treatment the first opportunity.

I did do so.—I have had many cases of the disease since then, and can say that it is powerfully efficacious; and is, in fact, the only real remedy I ever knew employed in such cases, nor has it ever failed me where there were reasonable grounds for hope; but I am sorry to say that I have known some cases where so much time had been lost reducing the powers of the system, by bleeding, purgatives, castor oil, fomentations, poultices, blisters, and clysters, that even the powerful effect of calomel and opium proved unsuccessful.

With respect to Dr. Uwins's new practice of rubbing or besmearing the skin of the abdomen with castor oil, I cannot discover the principle on which he employed it. He supposes that a portion was absorbed!!—this was a brilliant idea. Castor oil is of no real efficacy in inflammation of the intestines taken internally: it is not necessary when calomel and opium are *properly* given, and whether it will purge the bowels in any case by external application or not, ought to be known by experiment, before a suffering patient is subjected to so disgusting an application.

I am, Gentlemen, yours, &c.

July 10th, 1820. Z.

CONSUMPTION OF THE LUNGS.—Mr. La Beaume has applied the Galvanic fluid to a young lady in the last stage of a pulmonary consumption, under the direction of an eminent physician, with the most evident advantage. A few applications reduced the pulse from 120 to 80, considerably allayed the cough, and abated the fever. The organic disease, however, advanced, and terminated fatally. The physician gave his opinion that the remedy had evidently prolonged life, and rendered it more tolerable.

PYROLIGNEOUS ACID.—About two years ago we noticed the powers of this acid in preserving animal food. A Mr. William Ramsay has lately made some experiments with it, which confirm our statements of its antiseptic properties. Mr. Ramsay gives the following account of his experiments:—

"On the 10th of July last, a number of herrings were cleaned in the common manner, and, without being salted, were immersed for three hours in distilled pyroligneous acid, of the specific gravity of 1.012. On withdrawing the fish from the acid, they were considerably softened, and had not the firmness of fish taken from a pickle of common salt. In this state they were hung on a rod to dry, in the shade, were frequently examined, and though the months of July and August were very hot, the herrings had not the slightest sign of putrefaction: on the contrary, the smell was quite wholesome, although joined with the flavour arising from having been steeped in this acid. On broiling one of the herrings, the empyreumatic smell was strongly developed, and the fish were by no means agreeable to those who are not accustomed to this flavour; but after being kept for upwards of six months, they remained in a state of complete preservation. From experiments made since, I find that pyroligneous acid of the specific gravity of 1.012, is too strong for the immersion of fish for so long a period as three months, but that simply dipping them in acid of the above strength is sufficient for their preservation, if they are afterwards dried in the shade; and on boiling herrings done in this manner, they were very agreeable to the taste, and had nothing of the disagreeble empyreuma which those had which were steeped for three hours in the acid.

"Although it is thus evident that fish may be preserved without the intervention of salt, yet mankind are so accustomed to the habitual use of salt in the preservation of food of almost every species, that my next experiments were made with the view of uniting these antiseptics in the curing of provisions.

"A number of very fine haddocks were cleaned, split, and slightly sprinkled with salt for six hours. After being drained, they were dipped for about three seconds in pyroligneous acid, then hung on a spit, in the shade, for eight days before being used. On being broiled, the fish were of an uncommonly fine flavour, delicately white, and were equal to what are called Finnan haddocks, which are so much esteemed As a comparative experiment, I allowed one of the fish to remain twelve hours in the pyroligneous acid: on withdrawing it, it was soft and tender, which shewed that the acid had begun to decompose the muscular fibre of the fish. On broiling it, it had the same bad qualities of the herrings which were too long steeped in

the acid, and was unpalatable, from the strong empyreuma and acid taste.

"Herrings were cured in the same manner, and with the same success, by being first slightly cured with salt, drained, and then immersed in the pyroligneous acid. After being dried in the shade for two months, the quality and flavour were equal to those of any red herring which I ever tasted; and the fish retained the shining and fresh appearance which they have when taken from the sea.

"When these experiments were begun, in July, 1819, the manager of the works in which I am interested, dipped a piece of fresh beef in pyroligneous acid of the specific gravity of 1.012. It was not immersed more than one minute: it is now in my possession, (March 4th, 1820), and is as free from taint as on the day when the experiment was made, in July: no salt was here used. He at the same time dipped a piece of beef in pure vinegar, the specific gravity of which was 1.009: he informed me that on the 18th of November last, it was perfectly free from taint; when being broiled, it had a very agreeable sub-acid taste. From the latter circumstance, it appears that vinegar possesses in a certain degree the same antiseptic quality as the pyroligneous acid. Since I was informed of this circumstance, I have cured some haddocks with pure vinegar: they are entirely free from taint, but when cooked they had an insipid taste, from the want of the slight saline taste to which we are accustomed.

"From observing the change which takes place on fish when too long immersed in pyroligneous acid, it appears that the acid, when too strong, acts as a solvent of the fish, as the texture is not only shortened, but fibrous matter was diffused through the liquid, and the bulk of the fish was diminished. But when fish are only dipped in the acid, no diminution of bulk takes place."

IRREGULAR QUACKERY EXTRAORDINARY.—Sirs, Your pages have at different times unfolded to public view various artifices practised by certain regular and irregular members of the faculty, alike dangerous to the lives of those who have occasion to seek the Goddess of Health, and to their property; but I do not recollect any observations in your miscellany, on the conduct of a set of individuals, who, under the cloak of religion, cajole the public, when at the same time the general tenor of their conduct is any thing but religious. I have been led into a train of reflections on this subject, and of the infamy of it, by a few cases which have lately come under my own immediate knowledge, and shall select a couple merely to illustrate the justness of my remarks.

A poor woman, being lately indisposed, was advised by a neighbour to apply to one of these *religious humane* gentlemen, who professes to give advice to the poor gratis, &c. I take it for granted, that before the conclusion of this short communication, you will agree with me that that is the utmost value of the advice given. However, to make short of the story, she was informed by a footman in laced livery, who came to the door, that the doctor could not see her without a written recommendation from a housekeeper; that is, Sirs, that the poor woman, who by the way had her living to earn

by dint of labour, must neglect her employment and family, ill as she was, for a day or two, to take upon herself the office of running advertiser of this humane doctor, to tell housekeepers, who perhaps might be able to afford a fee, that there was such a great and learned man as Dr. B. to be found in such a street, in case they should require his extraordinary skill and services in their own families.

Having gone through this ceremony, she again applied at the usual hour, and was ushered into a room where several miserably poor women were waiting, many of them with emaciated children, who had been feeding for some months on quicksilver and chalk, known by footmen by the name of Plate Powder, but which has lately been called in a certain quarter *Blackberry Powder*. There were other women who intermixed with the strangers, and were particularly officious in offering seats, and in extolling the doctor's skill. On telling her complaint to one of these good dames, the dame declared that she had lately been afflicted in the same manner, but after taking two bottles of medicine which the doctor had prescribed for her, she was happily restored to perfect health. The doctor's humanity she asserted was unbounded.—He ordered her to drink wine, and on her saying she was unable to pay for any, he put his hand in his pocket and gave her five shillings to purchase a bottle. In this place a large painted board of regulations was conspicuously displayed, which, among other notable things, stated 'that patients, when relieved or cured, must return thanks to the housekeeper that recommended them, and to God.' The political meaning of which is, that if by chance any person should be benefited by his prescriptions (which must indeed be matter of great chance) both Church and State must be apprized of the circumstance. They must not only go and inform the housekeeper, that he might make the extraordinary occurrence known to all his neighbours and friends, but the clergyman of the parish must be requested to make it known to his whole congregation.

She was soon called into the doctor's room, but not in rotation, as the board expressed, for some of the good officious matrons before spoken of, very politely gave up *their turns*, alleging that their time was not very pressing. The doctor, after asking her a few questions, enquired whether she had been attended by any medical man, and by whom.—She replied she had, by a Mr. C———. He presented her with a prescription;—'There, my good lady,' said he, 'pay attention to this prescription, and, by the blessing of God, it will restore you; you have just applied in time; had you delayed one day longer I should not have been able to relieve you. *Innuendo.*—The man that has attended you is a fool, and did not understand the treatment of your complaint. You must tell your neighbours that you had been ill for some time, attended by Mr. C———. but on going to Dr. B———. he told you that had you not come when you did,—had you delayed a day longer, you would have been a dead woman.' These are politico-theological tenets! He likewise requested her to drink half a pint of wine daily; but although she informed him of the impoverished state of her finances and large family, he did not offer the means to purchase any, as the

good dame outside had taught her to expect; and just as she was leaving the house, a woman, who appeared to be well acquainted with the ways of the concern, whispered into her ear that she had discovered the women who so highly extolled the doctor's skill and humanity, were only puffers employed for that purpose,—the doctor kindly giving them sixpence or a shilling now and then! On examining the prescription, I found it to be principally composed of laudanum, compound tincture of cardamoms, and peppermint water; a scientific prescription certainly, with the additional stimulus of wine for uterine hæmorrage not of a very passive nature, and which, I need not tell you, proved less efficacious than the acidulated cooling astringent treatment which had been administered.

A child cutting its teeth became very ill, and sometimes convulsed, from the irritability of that affection, and was attended by Mr. E. a surgeon of skill. Dr. B. was called in, by the advice of a neighbour. He appointed a time to meet Mr. E. but took care *(as is his usual practice)* to be there a quarter of an hour before the time, alleging that his rounds were such that he could not contrive it otherwise. He informed the parents that the child had water in the head, and, agreeably to his usual practice, that had they not sent for him when they did, the child must have inevitably died. He prescribed quicksilver and chalk, his universal remedy for children. Mr. E. not having arrived, innuendo as before. Mr. E. however, relying on his own judgment, and having the confidence of the family, was convinced that no such complaint existed, and had sufficient influence to prevent the medicine from being given, and the child recovered in a few days by simple means, and has remained well ever since (several months); a convincing proof that Dr. B.'s predictions were founded in as much ignorance as his insinuations were base; and that his religious pretensions are a mere mockery to answer the most diabolical purposes; and disgusting to those really impressed with true religious principles. This man has been so often bespattered with dirt by the whole faculty, that his charater is become as black as a *Blackberry*. His residence—*non mi ricordo*, but it is something less than a mile from Blackfriars'-bridge. The insertion of the above in your next number will oblige your constant reader,

Newington, Aug. 24, 1820. A CHIRO-PHYSICIAN.

COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.—"Sirs.—Accidentally looking over the New List of the College of Surgeons, curiosity led me to calculate the number of new members within the last four years, which amounted to 1300! Taking the number to be one thousand, and calculating the diploma at twenty-pounds, deducting the stamp, gives the sum of 20,000l., or an average revenue of 5,000l. per annum, to the College! Should not such a large sum be in some way accounted for? I hope, Sirs, you will call the attention of the public to the subject; by so doing I am certain you will be highly thanked by the great majority of the members of the College. Such a revenue should surely confer on the surgical world more advantage than is at present derived from the College.

Oxford, July 22, 1820. A MEMBER OF THE COLLEGE.

Th emembers of the College residing in London, pay a guinea annually. The amount of this species of extortion, or compulsory contribution, we hope to be enabled to give in our next number.

DRINKING COLD WATER. — SIRS. — Every circumstance that can tend to remove or alleviate the afflictions of our fellow creatures, deserves attention, which, under the guidance and observation of a man of experience and ability, may not unfrequently be improved and rendered of the first importance and utility, both in the physical and medical world; witness the invention of telescopes, which took their rise from a child playing with spectacles; or the greater discoveries of the theory of the earth, specific gravity, &c., by Sir Isaac Newton, from the falling of the blossom of an apple-tree. Induced by these considerations, I beg your insertion of the following fact:— A man, during the late very warm weather, suffering much from thirst, whilst in a state of considerable perspiration, imprudently drank a quantity of cold water: he was soon after seized with very alarming symptoms. A little camphor, dissolved in a gill of brandy, was given to him in three doses, at intervals of five minutes; which proved so efficacious, that in a few hours he was completely restored. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Exmouth-street, Aug. 14, 1820. CHEMICUS.

The person had probably been accustomed to the stimulus of a spirit. The quantity of a gill, with camphor, was much too great to take in so short a time.

MANAGEMENT OF YOUNG CHILDREN.—A Dr. Davis, who styles himself Physician and *Founder* of *the* Universal Dispensary for Children, has published "Rules and Methods for Feeding, Clothing, and Rearing Young Children."---Under the head of "Infant State," the doctor has given sixteen rules.

"1. Use a child early to the boat or spoon—*in case of illness, or failure of milk from the breast in the mother.*

"2. Keep an infant *dry* and *warm—to preserve health, promote growth, and obviate chafing.*

"3. Feed an infant in an upright posture—*to give uniform distension to the stomach, and thus to obviate indigestion and gripes.*"

When the trunk of the body is erect, the food descends into the stomach with greater facility; but how *uniform* distension is thereby prevented, we are at a loss to conjecture.—*Ed.*

"4. In the act of suckling, it is proper to take a child frequently from the breast, for a minute or two—*to obviate too rapid a distension of the stomach, which occasions puking, or acidity.*"

The secretion of milk is too gradual to occasion a sudden distension of the stomach, and during the time the child is removed from the breast, the milk continues to escape.—*Ed.*

"5. Expose an infant early to the air—*to strengthen and enable it to withstand colds, and obviate purging.*"

Snuffling and inflammatory affections of the brain, lungs, and bowels, are frequently the consequences of exposure of an infant to the air. If the infant be predisposed to such complaints, it should not be exposed to an open air, unless it be warm and tranquil.—*Ed.*

"6. Attend invariably to cleanliness in an infant—*to prevent diseases of the skin, slow fever, rickets, and decline.*"

The doctor, we presume, alludes to articles of dress. By frequent ablution, either with cold or warm water, much mischief is done, particularly when the child is predisposed to inflammatory attacks of the nostrils, lungs, or bowels.—*Ed.*

"7. Let an infant's dress be loose and easy, and free from pins—*to avert accidents, glandular obstructions, and impediments to growth.*

"8. Place an infant, when asleep, on the right side—*to favour the descent of the food into the bowels, and to obviate indigestion.*"

If the food has not undergone digestion, it would be absurd to favour its escape into the intestines. By placing the body as much on one side as the other during sleep, or indeed during exercise, deformity of the chest, or curvature of the back bone, is prevented.—*Ed.*

"9. Attend strictly to plaintive cries—*by this means you may trace the first causes of illness; for a child will never cry, if well and at ease.*

"10. Wash a *strong* child in cold water, and dip it thrice a week—wash a *weak* one in warm water—*to refresh, promote healthy perspiration, and prevent diseases of the skin.*"

If the bowels, lungs, and head, are not perfectly free from disease, *cold* should be cautiously employed. *Warm* water also relaxes and disposes to rickets; tepid water is therefore most proper.

"11. Encourage a child to stretch and thrust out its limbs, and to crawl about—*to teach it active habits early, to strengthen it, and promote the circulation.—Ed.*

"12. Rub a young child night and morning, all over with the hand—*this exercises it, and promotes the circulation of the blood.*

"13. Comb a child's head, and wash it frequently with soap and water—*to prevent scald head, and painful eruptions behind the ears, and on the neck.*"

Much mischief often follows the free use of cold water to the head of an infant. The propriety of removing the scurf by frequent combing, is very questionable; certain it is some children are more healthy when it is allowed to accumulate. Even scald head seems to improve the general health.—*Ed.*

"14. If a child has cut four teeth, if it is in good health, and its bowels are regular, wean it at nine months, without any previous preparation—*do this to obviate numerous inconveniences, both to the mother and child.*

"15. If a child has been lately weaned, and is attacked with hooping cough, or any other severe disease, it may require the breast again: *it will be thus supplied with the diluting nutriment which it would then stand in need of:* or,

"Should a weaned child, to which is offered suitable food, fall off in health, decline and pine away, it may be prudent to procure for it a good breast of milk, and to let the child suck again—*to obviate an exhausting fever, which will inevitably prove fatal.*

"This rule, however, must not be invariably adopted; and ought always first to have the sanction of an experienced physician.

" 16. An infant should have three or four stools daily, of a bright orange colour—*a deviation from this appearance denotes acidity and indigestion.*—(*To be continued.*)

EDUCATION OF YOUTH.—On this very interesting subject we have received the following communication:—SIRS,—In a letter signed Jane W., of No. 56, the following mode of punishing pupils is highly deprecated, viz.:—'Depriving them of their regular meals,—exposing them to ridicule, placing them in a conspicuous part of the school, with some badge of disgrace, as the fool's-cap,—sending them to bed many hours before the usual time.—By such modes of punishment the constitution is often irreparably injured; by ridicule, or a sense of shame, the energy of the mind of many females has been destroyed for ever.' Mrs. W. then proceeds to state a case as applicable, in confirmation of her assertion: the lady also objects to the *system of sitting* six or seven hours daily, as very bad for females;—her letter concludes with stating, that 'education should be made a source of amusement to youth, by rewarding the attentive, keeping up a proper spirit of emulation, and proportioning the tasks to the natural capacity, [but not a single word about making them learn the tasks]—THIS IS PRACTICABLE.' Let me ask, how? or by what means? This is the grand secret to be discovered by masters and mistresses of schools, and for which they would give their heart's blood; for which they have passed toilsome days, and sleepless nights; for which they have breathed out their souls and racked their brains;—this is the grand acmé of perfection in teaching in a school; this is most truly uniting the *utile et dulce;* this is what Lilly, what Ward, what Dr. Busby never could arrive at:—this is what I, who have kept school for twenty years, have endeavoured to find out, but in vain. Frequently have I laid aside all instruments, and modes of punishment, and promised pounds, pardons, holidays and amusements, rewards and remunerations of every description, the most enticing and gratifying means, to keep shame, disgrace, and punishment from my establishment, for only two months; but alas! in vain: some one or more reprobate, fraught with evil, has ever overturned the best designs, and introduced disaffection or disobedience, and ruined my best concerted schemes. This lady has, however, in a very considerable degree cheered our drooping hearts, and raised our sinking hopes, by giving us a glimpse of the school of the Misses Moore, where every requisite is combined; the sage counsels of the wisest man is there judiciously put into practice, of 'training up a child in the way he should go.' Here indeed we are left in a dilemma, when the latter part of the counsel states, and '*when he is grown old he will not depart from it.*' Now this is rather unfortunate, as the children are retained only till eight years of age, or thereabouts: and again we have several other maxims given by the same wise man, which it would be wicked to attempt to deny, and highly presumptuous to endeavour to confute; viz.:—*Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child, but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.—He that spareth the rod, hateth his son; but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.—The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child left*

to himself bringeth his mother to shame.---Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest, yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul.---Chasten thy son while there is yet hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying.

In inserting the above few quotations, out of a great number which I could collect to the same purpose, from various parts of the Sacred Scriptures, I by no means intend to reflect on the Misses Moore's Seminary, or their mode of tuition;—no: far, very far from it: on the contrary, I do not entertain the least doubt of the propriety of their management, and the successful result of their system; and so much do I approve of children being educated in their tender years, under the superintendance of judicious young ladies, that I consider them much superior to men; they know better how to soothe their little sorrows, relieve their little wants, and direct their infantile minds, moulding them to their own lovely sympathies, giving them a heart flowing with humanity—

"—— to feel another's woe,
To hide the fault they see."

To them belongs the

"Delightful task to rear the tender mind,
To teach the young idea how to shoot:"

For

"Children, like the osiers, take the bow,
And as they first are fashioned, always grow."

Let not Mrs. Jane W. stigmatise me for a brute without fellow-feeling, on account of the few quotations which I have extracted from Proverbs, relative to the correction of youth. I advise every gentle means to be tried, and would recommend, when possible, that the disobedient be kept in awe rather by the *fear* of punishment, than by the punishment itself: of this I will speak more particularly at a future period: for the present, will only observe, that to me it is evident Mrs. W. never had the education or management of children under her direction, or she would immediately see the impossibility of adopting the modes she recommends, how practicable soever she may consider them; though I will allow, in a private family it is *very practicable*, where few children are to be taught; but in a school, where numbers are together, and so much business must be performed within a limited time, I do positively assert it to be *impossible*; in a future number this assertion shall be illustrated by examples in various instances; nor can I now conclude without stating my firm conviction, that the general cause and necessity for children's being so frequently reproved and punished, arise from the improper conduct of *parents themselves*; it is they who plant the thorns, and they expect to gather figs;—it is *parents*, and commonly too most affectionate, loving, tender and religious parents, that first sow the seeds of evil in the breasts of their tender offspring; that teach them to equivocate, tell falsities, pilfer and rob: This, you will say, is a dreadful accusation against the best of parents, who thus become the authors of their dearest pledge's destruction, and each parent will immediately exclaim, 'It is impos-

sible that this can be my case!' As facts are stubborn things, they are not wanting, and are, alas! too numerous to establish my position; I will add some few words by way of advice, to correct this serious evil, though I would have you keep in mind, that

> "The stubborn earth does not her treasures yield,
> Till pierced and goaded by the vigorous plough."

As to the situation of Dorking, the residence of the Misses Moore, I am well acquainted with, and cannot do greater justice to it than by quoting the words which the Poet attributes to England.—

> "A fairer place than *Dorking*, never sun
> View'd in his wide career; a lovely spot,
> Of all that life can ask; salubrious, mild,
> Its hills are green, its woods and prospects fair;
> Its meadows fertile; and, to crown the whole,
> In one delightful word,—'tis *Paradise*."

Aug. 14, 1820. DOMINUS P.

"GENTLEMEN.—I have read the letter in your last number, signed 'Jane W.' I perfectly agree with your correspondent that the punishment of the fool's-cap ought to be abolished in all female boarding schools; and that the practice of depriving girls of their meals, and sending them to bed before the usual time, is highly destructive to their health and injurious to their constitution. But I am not disposed to admit that this is a general custom in well-regulated boarding schools. I am in the constant habit of visiting one in the neighbourhood of Kensington, where from thirty to forty girls are boarded, and where the daughters of some of the first families in the kingdom have been successfully educated. In this school, the preservation of health is considered of the first consequence; the punishments alluded to by 'Jane W.' are never permitted, and every exertion is used to enforce discipline by the mildest measures. But when correction is necessary, (and every person who has had any experience in education knows that it cannot be altogether dispensed with,) it takes place in such a manner as to be an example to the whole school, without giving to the offender any badge of disgrace beyond the immediate infliction of the punishment. By this means the mind does not suffer by an exposure to the ridicule of the school for hours, as in the case of the fool's-cap; neither is the health impaired by the deprivation of meals, while the example, which is the grand object of all punishment, is by far more impressive on the school.

"The system of sitting so many hours on forms every day must be highly injurious to the health of females; and I much wish that more attention was paid to their *exercise*, which is the grand secret of procuring health. Of all exercises I consider dancing the best, as it opens the chest, and brings all the energy of the frame into action. Most schools are deficient in attending to this point. The common practice is for the dancing master to attend once or at most twice in the week. This may be enough for Girls to learn the accomplishment, but it has little or no effect as to exercise; and I am satisfied that in schools where the custom is for every girl to dance one hour

in every day, half an hour at a time, and that always *before* meals, they will be found to be much more healthy than when such rules are not attended to.

"With respect to 'Jane W.'s observations as to the capability of a girl to perform the task allotted to her, I admit that in some cases it may be difficult to determine how far her natural powers extend; and that it is cruelty to punish her for obstinacy if she is really unable to do what we desire:—but here I must observe, that great imposition is frequently practised on the managers of boarding schools; and I cannot illustrate it better than by the following anecdote which comes within my own personal knowledge.

"At the school which I have before alluded to, a girl of thirteen years of age was desired to get ten lines of Milton by heart. This she said it was not in her power to do; fair means were tried with her, punishments were tried, but all for a length of time without effect. At last the governess made her repeat two lines the first day, four the second, and so on until she got the whole ten. On her going home for the vacation she was desired to get twenty lines of Milton by heart as a task; and on her return, to the astonishment of the governess and the whole school, she repeated upwards of four hundred lines of that book, scarcely missing a word, and she afterwards turned out to have the best memory of any girl in the school. This never would have been known had the governess given up to her in the first instance, and believed the story she told of her own incapacity. I cannot, therefore, altogether disapprove of the saying, 'That the bird that can sing and will not sing, must be made to sing.'

"The importance of this subject must be my apology for the length at which I have presumed to address you; and hoping to hear again from 'Jane W.' and from others, through the medium of your valuable publication,

"I am, Gentlemen, your most obedient Servant,

"12*th August*, 1820." "ELIZA J——."

CIDER.—Sirs,—During a short stay in Herefordshire, I was not a little surprised on observing that the farmer makes no use of the native apple, the crab, which, in some parts, is very abundant. The acid of the crab is the same as that of the best apple, and the fruit differs only in the strength of the acid, and in nearly the total absence of saccharine matter. Now if the crab were ground with water and sugar, a cider might be produced equal, if not superior, to the best that is made in this country. Indeed, a kind of wine might be made equal to that which is imported from Germany, under the name of *hock*. The farmers of Herefordshire know nothing of the proper method of making cider. I met with a maker who boasted much of the superiority of his cider, in consequence of his *scientific* method of making it. On requesting information on this head, he told me that he checked fermentation by an addition of brandy, by which means the *richness* of the fruit was preserved; and this plan is certainly not a bad one. The manner in which the farmers ferment cider is most unscientific. They allow the cask to

remain without a bung till the liquor becomes still, and many months often expire before this takes place. During this time the liquor runs in to the acetous fermentation, the saccharine matter and fine flavour of the apple is destroyed, and the cider is in consequence pronounced to be fine rough liquor. It contains, in fact, more vinegar than wine, whereas good cider should be *wine* only, *i. e.* the fermentation should be checked before vinegar forms. In order to make good cider, the fermentation should, in the first instance, be briskly conducted by a small addition of yeast, and as soon as it becomes a little quiet, which it will in the course of five days, it should be bunged up. The plan recommended by Mr. Knight, of exposing the fruit to the action of the atmosphere, is assuredly a bad one, for the liquor, in consequence of the attraction of oxygen, will soon run into the acetous fermentation. In this climate the apples do not sufficiently ripen, and therefore to form a wine sufficiently strong to remain in a vinous state, a little sugar should be added at the time of grinding the apples.

London, I am, Sirs, your
April 10th, 1820. CONSTANT READER.

TABLE BEER.—A physician of the Metropolis informs us that as soon as a cask of table beer is received into his house, it is drawn off into quart *stone* bottles, with a lump of white sugar in each, and securely corked. In three days it becomes brisk, is equal in strength to table ale, remarkably pleasant, very wholesome, and will keep good many months.

MORPHIA.—Dr. Thompson has published the following method for obtaining pure morphia, a remedy highly extolled by many eminent physicians on the continent for allaying spasms and procuring refreshing sleep. Into a strong infusion of opium pour caustic ammonia; separate the precipitate by the filter, evaporate the solution to about a sixth, mix it with more ammonia, and a deposit of impure morphia is obtained. Collect the deposit by filter, and wash it with cold water; when well drained, pour a little alcohol on it, and let the alcohol liquor pass through the filter; it will carry off a good deal of colouring matter, and very little of the morphia. Dissolve the impure morphia in acid, and mix the deep brown solution with ivory black; agitate the liquor frequently for twenty-four hours, filter it, and the liquor will pass through colourless. If ammonia be now dropped into it, pure morphia falls in the state of a white powder; if this precipitate be dissolved in alcohol, and slowly evaporated, the morphia is obtained in crystals, (rectangular prisms) perfectly white, of a pearly lustre, destitute of smell, and of an intensely bitter taste. Pure morphia passed through red-hot peroxide of copper, is converted entirely into carbonic acid and water.

BURNING OF SMOKE.—Mr. M. A. Taylor lately brought this subject before the House of Commons, by a motion, for a Committee to consider of the practicability of compelling persons using furnaces to erect them on a construction less prejudicial to health than the methods hitherto pursued. The method alluded to

by Mr. Taylor, as having been successful at Warwick, is not the only, and, we are much inclined to believe, not the best, that may be adopted for causing furnaces to burn their own smoke; and we should be sorry to see Parliament adopting any measure, which, even by implication, might be construed into an act of partiality. A Committee reported last year on this very subject; and in their report, which was an able one, various furnaces were described, no way inferior, if not superior, in efficacy to the one so strongly recommended by Mr. Taylor. Among others, those of Messrs. Gregson, Losh, Wakefield, Brunton, and Walker, were noticed, and illustrated by means of engravings. The same parties, and other ingenious individuals, have been, or will be, before the present committee; and we may hope that much practical information, of great utility, will result from the investigation.

SEIDLETZ POWDERS.—Sirs,—Being slightly indisposed during a visit to Brighton, in the month of July last, I consulted a physician, of whose abilities a friend entertained a very favourable opinion. The learned doctor, after feeling my pulse, and examining my tongue, recommended me to take the Seidletz powders, which he was so kind as to say I might obtain at a certain chemist's shop in Brighton. For this advice he did me the favour to accept of a guinea!! I accordingly purchased a box of the powders, the first dose of which had the effect of distending my stomach and bowels with air to a degree that distressed me exceedingly, and had I continued the use of the remedy, I am inclined to believe, as the doctor predicted, I should have soon been free from fever, and my nervous system in a state of *perfect* tranquillity. It being stated in the direction, that a solution of the salts is exactly similar to the celebrated Seidletz water, I took the trouble to examine them chemically. The acid I discovered to be the *tartaric*, a *vegetable* production!! I then discovered soda, an article which has not been detected in the Seidletz waters!! Now, Sirs, how a man, styling himself a chemist, can have the effrontery to advertise a *vegetable acid* and soda to form a *mineral* water, is to me astonishing, but John Bull will swallow any thing in the form of a medicine. By exposing this most contemptible imposition, you will do your country a service.

Chapter Coffee House, JAMES RUDGE,
August 12th, 1820. Chemist of Philadelphia.

P. S. Since I arrived in town, I have been credibly informed that my *able* physician of Brighton, is interested in the sale of this pretended Seidletz powders!!! What with imposition and *other matters*, the English may at this juncture exclaim, *O tempora! O mores!* with more truth than the people of any other nation, either at the present or any former period.

REPORT OF DISEASES AND REMEDIES.—Rheumatism and gout have been unusually prevalent since our last report. The extract of stramonium, so much extolled by Dr. Marcet, as a *specific* for these diseases, has afforded only temporary relief in acute cases, and in some chronic cases it has proved injurious, by disordering the

stomach and head. The tincture of the meadow saffron, and Dr. Wilson's tincture, support their reputation, as remedies for acute rheumatism and regular gout. Of the efficacy of the prussic acid, in incipient consumption, hooping cough, asthma, habitual cough, and of the carbonate of iron in tic doloureux, we continue to receive the most favourable reports. The cases of small-pox, after vaccination, have increased to such an extent, that no conscientious practitioner can recommend vaccination, as affording certain security against the contagion of small-pox: the most violent opposers of the practice, however, admit that it considerably modifies the small-pox. The saturated tincture of cubebs has been extensively administered in cases of chronic rheumatism, chronic gouty affections of the stomach and bowels, gleet, and fluor albus, with the most decided advantage. In many cases of gleet, and fluor albus, of long standing, it has succeeded in affecting permanent cures. In chronic affections of the bladder, attended with a considerable discharge of mucus, and an inability to retain the urine, it has has also proved very beneficial, after the uva ursi, and the usual remedies had failed to afford relief. As a remedy for recent cough the lettuce lozenge of Dr. Duncan is a valuable remedy. The many trials we have made of the caustic alcali, recommended by Mr. Brandish, for scrofula, prove that it possesses no power of correcting the scrofulous habit. For habitual costiveness, the galvanic and the electric fluids, applied to the surface of the belly, in the direction of the sympathetic nerve, have succeeded in removing the cause without the aid of medicine; and in all the cases of costiveness in which it has been used, within our knowledge, the patients have not experienced a relapse after the remedy had been discontinued many months. In asthma and indigestion, these remedies, we find, are successfully employed by many eminent practitioners. In some cases of diabetes, opium, in large doses, has removed the disease; two of the patients, however, soon afterwards died dropsical. The tincture of the seeds of stramonium has been given with success, in two cases of superirritative asthma. Some cases of acute rheumatism have occurred in our practice, which were much aggravated by the vapour of sulphur. In cases of regular gout, and inflammatory afflictions of the skin, it has also proved very injurious. For inflammatory piles, and the affection of the rectum, termed inward piles, the Harrowgate sulphur salt, a combination of lime of sulphur, and tartrite of potass, experience has proved to be a very valuable remedy. A Physician of eminence, in Dublin, informs us, that he has found the following composition to succeed in chronic or habitual cough and asthma, better than any other remedy:—

Take of Oxymel of the Hedge Hyssop, six ounces;
Gum Ammon. three drachms;
Prussic Acid, thirty drops.

To be well mixed.—A dessert-spoonful to be taken two or three times a day, in a wine-glassful of the decoction of Iceland Moss.

GAZETTE OF HEALTH.

No. 58. To OCTOBER 1, 1820. Vol. V.

Of DR. J. HAIGHTON,

Lecturer on Physiology, the Principles and Practice of Midwifery, the Diseases of Women and Children, late Physician to the Eastern Dispensary, &c. &c.

THIS very able Physiologist and Physician is a native of Haydon-Bridge, in the county of Northumberland. He received his classical education at the most celebrated schools in Coventry and York. Having chosen medicine as his profession in life, he commenced his noviciate in the medical school of the Borough, at the time the late Dr. Saunders was the leading professional character, and nearly sole lecturer. After he had qualified himself for the practice of surgery, he accepted the appointment of Surgeon to the Guards: the duties of which he discharged greatly to the satisfaction of the officers and privates. During the time he held this respectable office, he attended the lectures of the two celebrated anatomists and physiologists, Dr. Hunter and his brother John; the latter of whom, in consequence of the ardour with which he prosecuted his studies, and the superiority of talent he had so frequently manifested, made him proposals of partnership, for teaching dissections and comparative anatomy, which Dr. Haighton declined, on account of the conditions not meeting with his approbation. Such an offer, from the most distinguished physiologist this or any other country has produced, was highly creditable to Dr. Haighton.—On relinquishing his office in the army, the Doctor was appointed Demonstrator of Anatomy in the Borough medical school; and to his abilities, more than to those of any other professional man who has either preceded or followed him, that school is indebted for the character it has maintained in the medical world. The extensive opportunities this situation afforded the Doctor of prosecuting his anatomical studies, naturally led a man of his investigating mind to the cultivation of experimental physiology; and, on the death of Dr. Skeete, at that time Lecturer on Physiology, he was induced, by the solicitation of Dr. Saunders, to succeed him in that department. Desirous to extend his knowledge of the laws of the animal economy, with the view of qualifying himself for so important an undertaking, he instituted a series of experiments on living animals, from which he derived that important information which could not be obtained from the dissection of dead bodies, or from the works of his predecessors. A few years after he commenced his lectures on physiology, the late Dr. Lowder (a celebrated lecturer on midwifery), in consequence of declining health, solicited Dr. Haighton to become his coadjutor, which office he accepted. The practice of midwifery has, in consequence, of late years principally engaged the Doctor's attention; and so ably has he filled the chair, which Dr. Lowder resigned to him, that, for the last thirty years, he has been

justly considered the most able teacher of midwifery in Europe. On the death of Dr. Turnbull, he was elected, by a very large majority, Physician to the Eastern Dispensary; the duties of which he continued to discharge with great punctuality, and the most humane attention to the patients, for many years. This appointment he resigned as soon as he found his private practice would not allow him to discharge his duty to his own satisfaction—an example which some medical, or rather surgical, officers of the London Hospitals would do right to follow: but the love of lucre, and the gratifying effects of the adulation of pupils on weak minds, induce some to retain their appointments even beyond the period of superannuation, or even second childhood or idiotism. As an anatomist, and more particularly as a physiologist, Dr. Haighton has, for the space of thirty years, been highly esteemed by the first professional characters in the world. His Lectures on Midwifery bear convincing marks of superior talent and ingenuity. During his progress in public life he has displayed his professional acquirements by various valuable literary productions, particularly on that very distressing affection of the face, the *Tic douloureux*; for which he had recourse to the division of the affected branch of the nerve. The relief it afforded was instantaneous and complete; but, in the course of a few months with some, and years with others, in consequence of the nerve uniting, the disease returned in every instance. The operation has, therefore, been abandoned even by the Doctor himself. Besides the papers which have appeared in the medical and philosophical works, he presented two to the Royal Society; one on the reproduction of nerves, and the other on animal impregnation; both of which the Society did him the honour to publish in their Transactions. Indeed, so highly were the communications esteemed by that body, that he was soon afterwards elected a member. Of late years the Doctor has been greatly relieved from the *fatigues* of his profession by the assistance of his nephew, Dr. James Blundell, whose communications to the medical world prove him to be a very proper person to succeed the Doctor as Lecturer on Midwifery and Physiology, as well as in his private practice as physician. The laudable example of his uncle will doubtless keep up the ardour he has displayed in the promotion of that part of medicine, the economy of animal life, on which alone we can expect to build a rational system of medicine. For the high situation the Doctor has so long held in the medical world, as well as in public estimation, he is not indebted to "college honours;" and it is worthy of notice, that, when the College of Physicians came to the resolution to drive beyond the limits of their jurisdiction the physicians who were practising under the sanction of honorary diplomas, whom they very politely designated "irregular practitioners," they very prudently did not interfere with the practice of the Doctor. They were no doubt well aware that he would not have so tamely submitted to their mandates or insulting conditions as the late Dr. Clarke, Dr. Adams, and others; who preferred paying a mulct annually to having their names brought before the public as irregular practitioners! They were well aware that the Doctor acknowledged no superiority but that which clearly

arose from superior learning and superior abilities; that he was not so ignorant as not to know that a diploma, whether honorary or otherwise, does not convey intelligence to the possessor; that the *title* of physician *alone* could command respect only with the uninformed; and that if a physician be properly qualified to exercise the healing art, it could be of no consequence whether he obtained his information in London or at an University. Indeed the man capable of thinking for himself will not hesitate to pronounce that school to be best which affords the best opportunities of acquiring practical as well as theoretical information; and that London, from its numerous hospitals, and able teachers, affords opportunities superior to any university in the world for acquiring a knowledge of medicine, the members of the College of Physicians who deliver or read lectures in the metropolis, admit.

When the melancholy results of the labour of the Princess Charlotte were announced, many medical men expressed their astonishment that the officiating accoucheur, when he found the labour was not proceeding favourably, did not call to his aid Dr. Haighton, instead of a physician, who was not likely to influence his opinions, or in fact could act no other part than an "acquiescing looker-on." Had Dr. Haighton been in attendance, he would have dared to have given his advice, and the result in that case might have been less disgraceful to the profession; and even had it terminated as disastrously, a more satisfactory report after dissection would have been made to the public. As it is, the case is involved in great mystery. All we know is, that the unfortunate Princess appeared to be better than could be expected after so long and severe labour, for some time after delivery; that after taking something, the stomach became disordered, and that she continued to sink rapidly till death terminated her sufferings. Neither the contents of the stomach nor its internal surface were examined, although the body was embalmed. The unfortunate termination of a labour from which the accoucheur expected to derive great credit, and a handsome pension for life, was sufficient to disorder the brain of a nervous man; but why it should have continued to operate on the mind of the nurse, so as to drive her to an act of suicide, is to us a matter of surprise, the customary pension having been settled on her. We hope to be enabled to give something interesting respecting this affair in our next number, from "a Chelsea Subscriber."

MEDICAL JURISPRUDENCE.—We have much pleasure in observing that the Editor of a cotemporary Medical Journal (the Medical and Physical) has devoted a portion of his leisure and talents to the cultivation of Medical Jurisprudence; and judging of his abilities to improve this department of medical and legal knowledge, by the specimen he has given us in a "Dissertation" he has just published on "Infanticide*," we should say that much benefit may be ex-

* *A Dissertation on Infanticide, in its relations to Physiology and Jurisprudence.* By WILLIAM HUTCHINSON, M.D. F.R.S. 8vo. pp. 99. Souter, London, 1820.

pected to result from the general Treatise, which (as he states in his Preface to this Dissertation) he intends to produce on this subject, as well as on Medical Police. These things have been very much neglected by the profession, because the knowledge of them is not required in the every-day practice of medicine, and the records of our courts of justice furnish us with many examples of the serious consequences of their ignorance. The truth is, that a peculiar train of researches is necessary for the cultivation of Medical Jurisprudence; for, a man may be well informed respecting the physiology of the human body in the state of health, and with the effects of external agents on it, as far as regards the production of the common forms of disease, and yet unable to reason, in a correct manner, on the cases of this nature which become the subjects of legal investigation. Many of the facts which here require consideration, are not necessarily regarded in the former views, and cannot be known without a deviation from the ordinary course of medical observation and inquiry. Besides this, it is not sufficient that the general laws of physiology be understood; a knowledge of all the exceptions to those laws which have occurred, or may be supposed likely to occur, is absolutely necessary, as well as the most intimate acquaintance with the character of all the sensible phenomena developed by the human body under every state of health and disease, and of the apparent circumstances from which they have their origin. A peculiar cast of mind is also required—a disposition for deep, close, and cautious reasoning, and much soundness of judgment, which are only to be attained by certain habits of thought, and a well disciplined education. Returning to the dissertation before us, we should state at once that we think Dr. Hutchinson has treated of Infanticide in a very perspicuous and praiseworthy manner. He describes what should be the conduct of the practitioner throughout the investigation of a case of this kind, in the order in which he should proceed; and after having gone through the whole of the examination, he gives a general summary of the inferences, which embraces the principal points that are to be considered in every case that may occur, so as to leave but very little difficulty to the medical practitioner in forming his conclusions, and drawing up his report for the court of justice. An account of the laws and statutes of England and Scotland respecting Infanticide terminates the work. We find in it many new and highly interesting facts and original observations brought forward by the author, and a copious citation of such as have been detailed by German, French, Dutch, Italian, and other continental physicians, and by Dr. Hunter and Professor Burns in our own country; and Dr. Hutchinson cannot be said to have failed to make the best use of these, for want of penetration and solidity of judgment. He states, that he has had the instruction of legal men, coroners, and jurymen in view, as well as that of medical practitioners; and he has, by his very perspicuous manner, both in language and the arrangement of his observations, fulfilled this part of his object much better than we could have expected. Besides the subjects more immediately connected with inquiries into cases of supposed murder of new-born infants, this "Dissertation" treats of several other points more dis-

tantly related to them, but yet requisite to be well understood, and which will prove interesting to our scientific readers in general, as, the means of restoring suspended animation in new-born infants; an account of the origin and development of the fœtus, and of the circulation of the blood before birth, with the changes that take place in it after birth; the theory of death from drowning, hanging, and suffocation, by deleterious gases, &c. We shall transcribe what the author says on the first point, as it conveys information that may become useful, in cases of sudden emergency, to almost any of our readers.

"Whenever sensible proofs of absolute death are not present, the body should be subjected to the means best calculated to excite it to vigorous life; these are,—external warmth and gentle friction over the surface of the body, especially about the chest and arm-pits; whipping the soles of the feet with small rods; the application of alcohol (spirits of wine), or some other analogous stimulating substance (as brandy, &c.) to the nostrils; the injection of a small quantity of such substances into the rectum; electricity, or galvanism; and, especially, inflation of the lungs with air. It seems necessary to describe here (the author adds in a note) the manner in which this inflation of the lungs should be effected, as it has often been attempted without success, even by medical practitioners. If the mouth or nostrils of a new-born child be blown into, without the use of some previous measures, the stomach is more likely to become inflated than the lungs. In order to secure success in this operation, the external orifices of the nostrils should be closed by the fingers of an assistant; the practitioner should grasp the upper part of the windpipe, not so forcibly as to compress it much, just about the thyroid and cricoid cartilages (that is, at the protuberance vulgarly called *Adam's apple*) with his thumb and fore-finger, and gently thrust it *backwards*, and a *little upwards;* he will thus close the canal of the œsophagus, and consequently prevent the air passing into the stomach. The tongue is then to be drawn forwards between the lips on one side of the mouth; a tube of any kind (a portion of a quill, a piece of a tobacco-pipe, or a roll of paper, in want of better means) is to be passed into the mouth half an inch beyond the gums on the other side, the lips closed around it, and a stream of air blown through the tube (the air may be furnished by the mouth of a person; but he should fill his mouth with the requisite air, without drawing it down into his lungs; he may thus fill the lungs of the child with nearly *pure* air) with as much force as he can exert, with the muscles of his cheeks. This insufflation is to be made repeatedly; at each time he may propel all the air he can contain in his mouth; a slight compression of the chest should be made after each insufflation, and of the belly too, if it be distended by it. This measure is to be employed at the same time with the other restorative means, and should be continued for at least one hour, and then resorted to after an interval of half an hour, (during which time the use of the other means is to be continued) and persevered in for half an hour longer. Hope of their success after this period cannot be rationally entertained. In the foregoing remarks, I have had in view the instruc-

tion of the public in the means proper for restoring suspended animation, as cases may occur in which it is desirable that they should be employed without delay, when the attendance of a medical practitioner cannot be quickly obtained; but I urgently advise the latter to make an opening into the trachea, instead of blowing into the mouth, in all cases where he is not satisfied, by the elevation of the ribs, that the lungs are really inflated by the latter method, as the glottis of new-born infants is sometimes closed by a viscid mass of mucus, which forms an obstacle that cannot be removed by blowing into the mouth. In the case of resuscitation of the child, the danger of ill consequences from the operation here advised is almost a nullity; it is certainly not worthy of comparison to the advantages that may be derived from it in certain cases, nor to the danger arising from the injury caused by passing an instrument within the glottis."

The author seems to have omitted nothing of importance relating to this subject; and though there is no point in Medical Jurisprudence which presented greater difficulties, or which comprises more extensive considerations than the question of Infanticide, he has rendered the decision of it a matter of facility in the generality of cases. We conclude with recommending the work to the perusal of our readers, as a guide of very great utility to medical practitioners, and as an interesting production to those who may be engaged in legal inquiries in which the subject of it is investigated.

STRICTURE OF THE COLON.—The observations on Stricture of the Rectum, which appeared in a late number, from the pen of Surgeon Hicks of Bath, have induced Mr. Whyte, Surgeon to the Bath Infirmary, to publish the following particulars of a case of Stricture of the extremity of the Colon:

"About five weeks ago I was consulted by a medical practitioner of this city, between thirty and forty years of age, who looked extremely ill, and was very much emaciated. He informed me that he had been a long time afflicted with some complaint in his bowels, and wished to have my opinion respecting his case; it having been suggested to him the probability of his labouring under stricture of the rectum, although he had not entertained such an opinion himself, nor any of the medical gentlemen whom he had consulted. Three months prior to his application to me, he had had a violent attack of pain in his bowels, which he conceived to be peritonitis; and, though he had been relieved from the extreme pain he endured at that time, he felt his health gradually declining, and increasing difficulty in attending to his professional duties. Frequently, after returning home from visiting his patients, he was so much in pain as to induce him to use warm fomentations to the abdomen, which afforded him some temporary relief. He had great difficulty in procuring evacuations, which were loose and scanty, and for several months he had not passed a figured motion. These last symptoms made the existence of stricture suspicious, which proved to be a fact on examination. However, not being able to pass different-sized bougies through the stricture, the patient was requested to take some castor-oil the following morning, promising I would call upon him afterwards;

hoping, if the bowels were freely opened, I should be able to pass a bougie.

"On calling on him next day, I found the oil had only produced a small loose motion, by no means sufficient to relieve the bowels. He appeared to be in considerable pain. A very small bougie was passed beyond the stricture, without meeting any other obstruction higher up the passage. A mixture with infusion of senna and Epsom salt was directed to be taken every two hours until the bowels should be freely open. In the evening, I found the mixture had not remained on the stomach, and that every thing he had taken returned. As the pain of the bowels had increased, I took about twelve ounces of blood from the arm, (which exhibited a buffy surface) and he felt somewhat relieved afterwards. As aperients in a liquid form did not remain on the stomach, pills with extr. coloc. comp. &c. were directed to be taken at stated periods, until a proper effect should be produced.

"The next morning, I found the stomach had rejected the pills also, and there had been no evacuation of fœces. A very troublesome, and almost incessant, hiccough had come on; which, with the sickness and vomiting, continued two days, and then entirely ceased, in consequence of the patient having been directed to take some light curds and whey; the good effects of which I had often experienced in cases of obstinate vomiting. The patient was able again to keep down what nourishment he took, and also medicine. Various clysters were administered, and every means adopted that were likely to afford relief; but every attempt proved unavailing. There was a total suppression of stools. The abdomen became distended, and the tumefaction continued to increase, with great languor and debility, until the morning of the eighth day (from my first seeing him), when he expired, after very severe suffering. It will appear obvious from the dissection, that the effects of the disease had become of too serious a nature to admit of relief, after the discovery of the original cause."

On examining the body, Mr. White ascertained, that the tumefaction of the abdomen arose from the escape of air into its cavity, and from preternatural distention of the colon, particularly of its ascending arch, which was of an enormous size. On tracing the intestine, he discovered a stricture which would admit only of the introduction of a small bougie.

Mr. White adds, that he has reason to suspect that Mr. Hicks published his paper on Stricture of the Rectum, "with the view of claiming to himself the merit of discovering a complaint which has for many years been well known, and on which Mr. White's Treatise, published 1812, has already reached a third edition." On Mr. Hicks's communication, Mr. White makes the following remarks:

"Mr. Hicks says, 'Towards the close of the year 1807, during my residence at Mr. Brookes's Theatre of Anatomy, some interesting cases of dissection came before me, which first suggested the probability of the intestinal canal being subject to simple contractions, without any apparent disease or disorganization.' On referring to the Medical and Physical Journal of October 1809, it appears, by

the cases there reported, that I had met with the first of them five years previous to their publication; and that, by the summer of 1808, six cases of contracted rectum, under different modifications, had come within my particular notice; whilst, at that period, Mr. H. confesses to have met with only one case!!—his first experiment with the bougie. Mr. H. also says, 'My zeal for the promotion of that science which has been the object of my life, forbids me to withhold whatever information it is in my power to supply on this occasion.' What information has he communicated? Nothing but what was known before. Surely, if in the course of eleven years numerous anomalous cases had been submitted to him, such an extensive practice must have supplied him with an ample opportunity of collecting materials for some important communication, long before the third edition of my "Observations on Stricture" appeared. Mr. H. however, concludes his paper by merely promising, 'I may probably lay some of these interesting cases before the public at my first leisure.'

"If Mr. H. met with the first case of simple stricture as far back as the year 1807, it appears somewhat extraordinary that, so late as the year 1815, I was consulted by a person who had been under his care three months, without his having had any suspicion of the disease; at least, no examination with the bougie had been attempted, notwithstanding the symptoms of the complaint were very prominent. In the same year also, I attended a gentleman with stricture of the rectum, and who had been a long time extremely hypochondriacal. By means of the bougie, the stricture gave way; but, as his mind continued in a very wretched state, I was informed that he afterwards consulted Mr. H.; who declared there was no stricture, but observed it was a *fashionable* disease with Mr. White. Here I may take the liberty of retorting on Mr. H. and say, that stricture has not only been a *fashionable* disease with him of late years, but, I have reason to believe, a very profitable one also.

"With regard to Mr. H.'s knowledge of the disease itself, it does not appear, from the interesting cases of dissection he met with in the year 1807, that simple contraction actually existed in any of these cases; but that some unexplained circumstance only 'suggested the probability of the intestinal canal being subject to simple contractions, without any apparent disease or disorganization.' If simple stricture be not attended with some apparent disorganization, I am at a *loss* to comprehend how a local complaint could possibly be ascertained; for, where there is no sensible deviation from the natural structure of a part, I should be glad to know by what other means simple constriction is to be detected, as all the cases of dissection I have hitherto met with of simple stricture of the rectum, have invariably been attended with more or less of structural derangement. It is evident to me that Mr. H. has not clear and distinct ideas on the subject, as he appears to confound permanent spasmodic stricture with simple stricture; and, although I have particularly described these different forms of constriction in the last edition of my 'Observations on Stricture,' (to which I have no doubt your readers will refer with satisfaction) yet I have never met with a mere permanently spasmo-

dic state of the rectum on dissection; and it is a matter of doubt if Mr. H. has had a single dissection of that nature since he left Mr. Brookes's dissecting-room.

"With respect to his method of treating (what he calls) simple stricture, he relies, it seems, solely on the use of the bougie; and that 'numerous anomalous cases, pronounced by practitioners of eminence to be purely idiopathic, and for a length of time ineffectually treated by them as such, but which, through the application of the bougie alone, have proved to be merely sympathetic.' Mr. H. surely could not be ignorant of my having advanced this opinion eleven years ago in the Medical and Physical Journal; and subsequently, in each edition of my work on Stricture, additional cases have been produced in confirmation of it. Mr. H. does not inform your readers what kind of bougie he employs; and he carefully avoids noticing those invented by me, though they are preferred by all the medical gentlemen who have given them a trial, to every other sort. I have, however, been informed, that he uses the elastic gum bougie, (and of a very large size) which is certainly a very neat instrument; but I am persuaded, if it be relied on in making an examination where there is a suspicion of stricture, the practitioner will be liable to a deception, as the instrument, notwithstanding its great flexibility, does not readily yield at its extremity to the natural curvature of the passage; particularly should there be an unusual projection at the upper part of the sacrum, or last lumbar vertebra, the difficulty will be increased, which may lead an inexperienced surgeon to imagine there is a stricture, when in reality none exists.

"I shall here take the liberty of mentioning a circumstance which occurred about four years ago, in the case of a gentleman, who, after having been a few weeks under my care with stricture of the rectum, could introduce my largest size bougie with the greatest ease. As he intended shortly to sail for India, I thought it would be more eligible for him to use an elastic gum bougie, which he tried; and, though it was rather less in size than those he had been in the habit of using, he found it impracticable to introduce it. This result was a great disappointment, and matter of surprise to the gentleman: and still more so when my attempt proved equally unsuccessful. He returned to the use of my bougies without any difficulty. The relation of the above fact may perhaps prove useful to the inexperienced and young practitioner."

INTERMITTENT FEVER.—Dr. Perret has communicated to the Physical Society of Carcassonne a series of evidence of the efficacy of the powdered plantain root in intermittent fever. The dose is from one scruple to a drachm every three or four hours in a glass of simple peppermint water, or milk. Till of late, this plant (which is abundant in England) was retained in the *materia medica* of the Edinburgh College, but the leaves only were mentioned as the pharmaceutical part. In Germany, the plant is much employed in medicine as a tonic and diuretic. It is of importance to ascertain if the root of this plant, and other tonics recommended as substitutes for the Peruvian bark, merit the character that has been lately given them as remedies for ague, &c.; if it be true, as asserted by

Humboldt, that the tree from which the Peruvian bark is obtained "was becoming exhausted in the forests about Peru."

TAPE WORM.—Dr. Mongeny, physician to the hospital of the colony Fernandina, in the isle of Cuba, has found the leaves of the herb *balm*, made into a paste, to succeed in expelling the tape worm from the human intestines in the course of a few hours. He advises three ounces of the paste (made of fresh balm powder, and a sufficient quantity of honey) to be given to the patient fasting, and afterwards six ounces of honey in three doses, the first at the end of an hour, and the other after similar intervals. By this process, says the Doctor, the tape worm has always been expelled after the lapse of six or seven hours; and in many of the cases all the medicines of repute had been unsuccessfully tried. The worm is voided knotted into a ball, and not by piece-meal, as is commonly the case when removed by vermifuge purgatives. In a letter we lately received from Dr. Rousset, an Italian physician of high reputation, he observes, "The essential oil of petroleum (naphtha) has been employed for upwards of fifty years in his country, as a remedy for every species of worms lodged in the intestinal canal," and expresses his astonishment that the physicians of England should be so ignorant of the state of medicine in Italy, as to be unacquainted with the fatal effects of this article on intestinal worms, which he supposes them to be, from the manner in which they speak of the oil of turpentine as a *newly* discovered remedy for tape worm. The oil of turpentine, he contends, is, in its chemical properties, similar to naphtha. Petroleum is become so abundant in this country, in consequence of the general adoption of the gas lights in the metropolis (the production of it from the decomposition of coal being very considerable), that the oil of it obtained by distillation is employed to adulterate oil of turpentine. As a remedy for worms, it is unquestionably more effectual than the latter.

POISONS.—A member of the Royal College of Surgeons has published the following chart, which he flatters himself exhibits, "at one view, the symptoms, treatment, and modes of detecting the various mineral, vegetable, and animal poisons," according (as he supposes) to the latest experiments and observations; the merits of which have induced him to dedicate it "most respectfully" to the Royal Humane Society.

Poisons.	*Symptoms.*	*Treatment.*	*Tests.*
Arsenic.	Austere taste, fetid breath, increased secretion of saliva, sense of constriction of the gullet, &c. hiccup, nausea, vomiting of brown matter or blood, fainting, violent pain in the stomach, offensive motions, pulse	Vomiting to be excited by large draughts of sugared water, linseed-tea, or other emollient fluids; lime-water, or chalk and water, may be drank freely if the arsenic has been taken in solution. Fat, oil, vinegar, charcoal powder, alkaline sulphurets, and vegetable decoctions, which have been recommended, are worse than useless.	The ammoniacal sulphate of copper, added to a solution of arsenic, produces a dark green precipitate, but if dissolved in wine, the deposit will be blackish. Sulphureted hydrogen precipitates arsenic from tea, of a yellow colour; from albumen, gelatine and bile, containing arsenic in solution, nitrate of silver produces a white precipitate, soluble in nitric acid and ammonia; but the presence of
Arsenious acid or white arsenic.			
Orpiment or yellow arsenic.			

Poisons.	*Symptoms.*	*Treatment.*	*Tests.*
Realgar or red arsenic.	frequent and irregular, palpitation, thirst, difficult breathing, delirium, convulsions, and death.	Inflammatory symptoms are to be combated by bleeding, fomentations, frequent emollient clysters, and *other remedies*, as symptoms may demand. No specific antidote yet known.	muriates or phosphates, or their acids, renders this test fallacious. The most satisfactory proof is the reduction of the metal by calcining the dried suspected matter in a glass tube, with equal parts of charcoal and potash, when, if arsenic be present, it will be sublimed, and adhere to the side of the tube in the form of a shining metallic coating.

The arsenious acid is obtained by distilling nitric acid and the calx of arsenic, and it is not the same article as is sold under the name of white arsenic. The yellow and red arsenic are the white arsenic combined with different proportions of sulphur, by which they are rendered less virulent. The assertion that charcoal and the alcaline sulphurets are *worse* than useless, betrays an ignorance of chemistry. When white arsenic has been swallowed in considerable quantity, and has remained in the stomach many minutes, the hope of counteracting its effect must be very small; but that charcoal, by deoxidising arsenic, renders it inert, is a fact no *chemist* will deny. That the alcaline sulphurets decompose arsenic, and diminish its virulence, is also a fact satisfactorily ascertained; and if they were administered a few minutes after arsenic was received into the stomach, we should have no doubt of their counteracting its fatal effects. A mixture of the whites of eggs with water is also a very powerful auxiliary, and is preferable to any other diluent, to promote vomiting. After the evacuation of the poison, copious bleeding will be proper to prevent inflammation of the stomach. On what principle the learned gentleman recommends chalk, we are at a loss to conjecture. The disengagement of carbonic acid gas, which takes place on its meeting with an acid in the stomach, he should have known, is more likely to increase the virulence of arsenic than otherwise.

Poisons.	*Symptoms.*	*Treatment.*	*Tests.*
Antimony. Tartarised antimony or emetic tartar. Muriate of antimony or butter of antimony. Vitrified oxyd or glass of antimony.	Similar to those occasioned by acids, with obstinate vomitings, copious stools, constriction of the throat, cramp, symptoms of intoxication, and prostration of strength.	Vomiting to be excited by tickling the throat with a feather or the finger, and by large draughts of mild fluids; or allayed by opium, according to the previous effect of the poison. The best antidotes are, decoctions of astringent vegetables, such as oak or willow-bark, or gall nuts, strong tea, &c.	Tartarised antimony is precipitated, of an orange or deep brownish red colour, by the hydro-sulphurets; white, by sulphuric acid, alcalies, lime, and barytes waters. Alcaline and earthy neutral salts do not affect it; but salts with excess of acid do. Infusion of galls occasions a copious, whitish, yellow precipitate. The butter of antimony is a heavy fluid, from which white precipitate is produced on the addition of water. All the preparations of antimony are readily reduced to the metallic state, by calcination with charcoal and potash.

Twenty grains of the carbonate of potash, commonly called salt of

wormwood, or a solution of soap, and linseed-tea or barley-water, are most likely to succeed in obviating mischief. After the stomach has been properly emptied or washed out, copious bleeding, and opium, will be proper to prevent inflammation.

Poisons.	*Symptoms.*	*Treatment.*	*Tests.*
Bismuth. The nitrate of bismuth. The oxyd of bismuth or flake white, or face powder.	Similar to those of other corrosive poisons, with great heat in the chest, and very difficult breathing.	No specific antidote known. Milk and mild mucilaginous fluids to be drank plentifully, to facilitate vomiting, and purgatives should be given.	The nitrate boiled with distilled water is decomposed, part being precipitated as sub-nitrate, and part remaining dissolved; this solution is colourless, reddens litmus paper, and the hydro-sulphurets produce a black insoluble sulphuret of bismuth. The sub-nitrate is soluble, with a little heat, in nitric acid, from which the alcalies precipitate the white oxyd, which is easily reduced by calcination.

The article generally sold under the name of *flake white*, is a carbonate of lead. The oxyd of bismuth has lately been much employed in cases of indigestion, and by some practitioners has been administered to the extent of a drachm, without disordering the stomach. The nitrate of bismuth is seldom kept by chemists, and never by apothecaries. When taken into the stomach in sufficient quantity to disorder it, the best preventive of mischief is the salt of wormwood (carbonate of potass) with mucilaginous drink, as linseed tea and barley water.

Poisons.	*Symptoms.*	*Treatment.*	*Tests.*
Copper. The sulphate of copper or blue copperas. The sub-acetate or verdigris. Food cooked in foul copper vessels, and pickles made green by copper.	Taste acrid and coppery, tongue dry and parched, constriction of the throat, and coppery eructation, violent vomitings, severe colicky pains, frequent bloody stools, distention of the belly, pulse small, hard, and quick; fainting, great thirst, and anxiety; cold sweats, scanty urine, giddiness, cramps, convulsions, death.	Large draughts of milk and water, to encourage vomiting. Whites of eggs stirred up with water, and taken freely. Inflammatory consequences to be subdued on general principles, and the nervous symptoms by anodynes and antispasmodics. Sugar is not a *specific* antidote.	The salts of copper are mostly of a bright green or blue colour, and are easily reduced by charcoal, at an elevated temperature. The sulphate is partly decomposed by alcalies and alcaline earths. Potash precipitates a sub-sulphate, of a green colour. Ammonia, added to a solution of copper, produces a blue or greenish precipitate; but, if added in excess, it re-dissolves the precipitate, and forms a deep blue transparent solution.

An alcali, as the salt of wormwood (sub-carbonate of potass), should also be employed to decompose the salts, and in case the stomach has been much irritated, bleeding and an opiate will be proper, to prevent mischief. One would suppose that no medical man would

think it necessary to observe, that "sugar is not a *specific* antidote." We are told that good Mother Latham sometimes employed it. In our humble opinion, sugar is more likely to increase than to blunt the acrimony of copper.

Poisons.	*Symptoms.*	*Treatment.*	*Tests.*
Gold. The muriate of gold. Fulminating gold.	Probably, like those of other corrosive poisons, but not known.	No specific antidote known; but vomiting should be excited or encouraged by large draughts of warm mucilaginous fluids.	Muriate of gold is decomposed by nitrate of silver. A muriate of silver is precipitated, of a reddish, brown colour, owing, perhaps, to some oxyd of gold being carried down with it. Ammonia, added to the precipitate, dissolves all the muriate of silver, and leaves the oxyd of gold of a beautiful canary yellow colour.

A weak solution of pure potass, or from 40 to 60 drops of the liquor of potass in barley or common water, by decomposing the nitro-muriate of gold renders it innocent.

Poisons.	*Symptoms.*	*Treatment.*	*Tests.*
Silver. Nitrate or lunar caustic.	Similar to those occasioned by other corrosive poisons.	A table-spoonful of common salt to be dissolved in a pint of water, and a wine-glassful to be taken every five minutes, to decompose the poison; after which, mucilaginous drinks may be given, or purgatives may be administered.	Nitrate of silver is precipitated white, by muriate of soda; yellow, by phosphate and chromate of soda. If placed on burning coals, it increases ignition, leaving a coating of silver; calcined with charcoal and potash, the silver is reduced to its metallic state.

We should prefer the sub-carbonate of potass to common salt, to decompose the nitrate of silver, on account of its being less irritating, and producing a more mild precipitate. If the stomach has been much irritated by the action of the nitrate of silver, an opiate and bleeding will also be proper.

Poisons.	*Symptoms.*	*Treatment.*	*Tests.*
Tin. Muriate of tin (used by dyers). Oxyd or putty powder.	Taste austere, metallic, constriction of the throat, vomitings, with pain throughout the belly; copious motions; pulse small, hard, and frequent; convulsive movements of the extremities and face, sometimes paralytic, and mostly death.	Milk to be given; first in large quantities, to distend the stomach and produce vomiting, and afterwards to decompose the remains of the poison.	The muriate of tin precipitates gold from its solution, of a purple colour; by strong tea or alcoholic infusion of galls, it is precipitated of a bright yellow colour. Albumen and gelatin occasions a copious flocculent deposit. The oxyd may be volatilized by heat, is soluble in nitric acid, combines with earths by fusion, and, with fixed alkalies, forms enamel; it is easily reduced by calcination.

An alcali, as the sulphuret or sub-carbonate of potass, should also be administered to decompose the muriate of tin. As to the oxyd of tin, or putty powder, it is incapable of disordering the stomach.

Poisons.	*Symptoms.*	*Treatment.*	*Tests.*
Zinc. Sulphate of zinc or white vitriol. Oxyd of zinc.	A metallic taste, a sensation of choaking, nausea, and vomiting, pain in the stomach, frequent stools, difficult breathing, quickened pulse, paleness of face, coldness of the extremities, but seldom death, owing to the emeticquality of the poison.	Vomiting, which is the usual consequence of large doses of sulphate of zinc, to be rendered easy by draughts of warm water; and particular symptoms to be met by appropriate remedies.	The pure sulphate is precipitated white by potash and ammonia; yellowish white by the alcaline hydro-sulphurets, and of an orange colour by the chromate of lead. The oxyd is readily reduced by calcination, with charcoal and nitre.

An alcaline should also be administered, as the carbonate of soda or potass, to decompose the sulphate of zinc.

Poisons.	*Symptoms.*	*Treatment.*	*Tests.*
Lead. Super-acetate of lead, or sugar of lead. Red oxyd of lead, or red lead. Carbonate of lead, or white lead. Wines sweetened by lead.	When taken in large quantities, a sugary astringent metallic taste; constriction of throat, pain in the region of the stomach, obstinate, painful, and often bloody vomitings, hiccup, convulsions, and death. When taken in small long continued doses, it produces colic and paralytic symptoms.	The same as that recommended for the salts of barytes.—(See *Alkaline Earths.*)	All the preparations of lead are easily reduced to the metallic state by calcination with charcoal. The superacetate, dissolved in water, is precipitated white by sulphuric acid; of a canary yellow colour, by chromate of potash and chromic acid; these precipitates being easily reduced by calcination. The alcaline sulphurets precipitate the superacetate of lead, of a blackish colour.

When the sugar of lead is swallowed, an alcaline should be administered, and to render the other preparations of lead inert, charcoal powder, and copious draughts of a mixture of the whites of eggs and water, are most likely to succeed.

Poisons.	*Symptoms.*	*Treatment.*	*Tests.*
Mercury. Oxymuriate of mercury, or corrosive su-	Acrid metallic taste, thirst, fulness, and burning at the	Whites of eggs to be mixed with water, and one to be given every two or three minutes, to pro-	Mercurial preparations, heated to redness in a glass tube with potash, are decomposed, the quicksilver being volatilized.

Poisons.	*Symptoms.*	*Treatment.*	*Tests.*
blimate. Nitrico-oxyd or red precipitate. Sulphuret or vermillion.	throat, anxiety, tearing pains of the stomach and bowels, nausea and vomiting of various coloured fluids, sometimes bloody, looseness, and difficulty in making water; pulse quick, small, & hard; faintings, great debility, difficult breathing, cramp, cold sweats, insensibility, convulsions, and death.	mote vomiting, and to lessen the virulence of the poison, milk in large quantities, gum-water, or linseed-tea, sugar and water, or water itself, at about 80°. Inflammatory consequences to be anticipated, and to be subdued by the usual remedies.	The oxymuriate is precipitated white by ammonia, yellow by potash, and of an orange colour by lime-water; by nitrate of tin a copious dark brown precipitate is formed, and by albumen mixed with cold water a white flocculent one. The red and nitric oxides may be dissolved in muriatic acid, and converted into sublimate. Vermilion is insoluble in water or muriatic acid, but is entirely volatilized by heat.

An alcali, as the sulphuret of potass or soap lees, should also be administered to decompose the salts of mercury, particularly the corrosive sublimate. Charcoal powder should also be administered. Bleeding and an opiate, after the evacuation of the poison, will be proper to prevent inflammation of the stomach. The mercury in the vermilion is rendered so inert by its combination with sulphur, that it has been administered to the extent of a quarter of an ounce, without disordering the stomach.

Poisons.	*Symptoms.*	*Treatment.*	*Tests.*
Acids. Sulphuric acid or oil of vitriol. Nitric acid or aquafortis. Muriatic acid or spirit of salt. Oxalic acid or acid of sugar. Phosphoric acid Fluoric acid. Tartaric acid. Prussic acid.	Acrid burning taste, acute pain in the throat, stomach, and bowels, frequent vomiting of bloody fluid, which effervesces with chalk or alcaline carbonates, and reddens litimus paper; hiccup, copious stools, more or less bloody; tenderness of the abdomen, difficult breathing, irregular pulse, excessive thirst, increase of pain on drinking, and seldom staying down; frequent but vain efforts to make water, cold sweats, altered countenance, and death. The prussic	Mix an ounce of calcined magnesia with a quart of water, and give a glassful every two minutes. Soap, or chalk and water, may be used till magnesia can be procured. Carbonated alcalies are objectionable, on account of the great extrication of gas in the stomach, and the salts formed with them are too irritating for the stomach. Vomiting is to be excited by tickling the throat. Diluents to be taken after the poison is got rid of, and the return to solid food must be very gradual. Inflammatory and other consequences to be treated by the usual remedies. If prussic acid has been taken, an emetic should be given as soon as possible; and, after its operation, oil of turpentine, ammonia, brandy, or other stimulants, should be perseveringly employ-	Sulphuric acid is known by its great weight, by evolving heat when mixed with water, by emitting no fumes. If barytes be added to it, a sulphate is formed, which is insoluble in water or nitric acid. Nitric acid emits orange-coloured fumes upon adding copper to it, and is changed blue by it; if potash be added, a nitrate is formed, which deflagrates when thrown on burning coals. It tinges the skin yellow. Muriatic acid emits pungent fumes; if nitrate of silver be added to it, a very white precipitate is formed of muriate of silver, soluble in ammonia, but not in nitric acid. Oxalic acid precipitates lime and all its salts from water, the precipitate being soluble in nitric, but not in excess of oxalic acid. Exposed to heat, it volatilizes, leaving but little residue; it is decomposed by sulphuric acid, becoming brown; it is dissolved by heat and nitric acid, and rendered yellow; muriatic acid dissolves it with heat, and decomposes it.

Poisons.	*Symptoms.*	*Treatment.*	*Tests.*
Acids continued.	acid is a very powerful poison, and, in a concentrated state, capable of producing instant death, even when applied externally.	ed, with warmth, friction, and blisters. When vitriolic acid is taken into the stomach, water alone should not be given, but the common carbonate of magnesia may be administered freely when mixed with water. There is too much heat extricated if the above cautions be not attended to.	Phosphoric acid precipitates the barytes and lime-waters, the deposit being soluble in nitric acid; it is decomposed by charcoal at a high temperature, evolving carbonic acid, and phosphorus being sublimed. Fluoric acid exhales white vapours, not unlike those of muriatic acid; heat is evolved with a hissing noise when water is added to it; it dissolves glass. Tartaric acid produces a precipitate from lime-water, soluble in an excess of acid; and in nitric acid also, with potash, it forms a neutral and a super-salt; it does not precipitate solution of silver, but its salts do. Prussic acid has a strong odour of bitter almonds, and is contained in that fruit, and in the leaves of the peach and the laurel; it is soluble in acohol and water, and is precipitated by nitrate of silver.

To neutralize a powerful acid in the stomach, soap lees, diluted with water, is the best remedy. No chemist would employ either the carbonate of magnesia or chalk, on account of the great extrication of fixed air, which takes place on their meeting with a mineral acid. The reason for not administering water, viz. the evolution of heat is ridiculous, for the object of practice is not only to neutralize the acid, but to dilute freely. Dilution is also necessary to promote vomiting. Bleeding, an opiate, with a little carbonate of potass, dissolved in the almond emulsion, with a blister over the region of the stomach, are often necessary to prevent inflammation.

Poisons.	*Symptoms.*	*Treatment.*	*Tests.*
Alcalies. Caustic or carbonated. Potash. Soda. Ammonia.	The taste acid, resinous, and caustic, great heat in the throat, nausea, and vomiting of bloody matter, which changes syrup of violets to green, and effervesces with acids, if the carbonated form of the alcali has been taken; copious stools, acute pain of the stomach, cholic, convulsions, derangement and death.	Vinegar, and other vegetable acids, to be given largely to counteract the poison, and the consequent symptoms to be treated on general principles.	Alcalies have many properties in common. Their solutions feel soapy to the touch, change to green, vegetable reds and blues, and yellows to brown, remain transparent when carbonic acid is added to them, which distinguishes them from solution of the alcaline earths, barytes, strontian, and lime. Nitrate of silver is precipitated by them in form of a dark coloured oxyd, soluble in nitric acid. Potash and soda may be distinguished from each other by evaporating their solutions to dryness. The potash will become moist on exposure to the atmosphere, while soda will remain dry. Ammonia is known by its pungent smell.

To neutralize an alcali in the stomach, vinegar is the best acid.

Poisons.	*Symptoms.*	*Treatment.*	*Tests.*
Alcaline earths. Lime. Barytes. Pure barytes. Carbonate of ditto. Muriate of ditto.	Violent vomitings, convulsions, palsy of the limbs, distressing pains in the abdomen, hiccup, alteration of the countenance, and very early death.	If lime has been taken, vinegar, and other vegetable acids, are the best antidotes. If barytes, in any of its forms, has been swallowed, a weak solution of Epsom or Glauber's salt should be drank plentifully, to produce vomiting, and at the same time to decompose the poison, which it renders inert, by forming an insoluble sulphate. Until the above salts can be had, large draughts of spring water, alone, or made slightly sour by sulphuric acid, may be drank pretty freely.	Solution of lime changes vegetable blues to green, and is precipitated white by carbonic and oxalic acid, while no change is produced on it by sulphuric acid; its salts are decomposed by the fixed alkalies, which precipitate the lime, but not by ammonia. Pure barytes undergoes changes similar to lime when water is added to it, and acts like it on vegetable colours; it does not effervesce with acids. Sulphuric acid, and all the sulphates, added to a solution of it, produce a white precipitate, insoluble in water and nitric acid. Carbonate of barytes is insoluble in water, but dissolves in nitric or muriatic acid, with an effervescence. Muriate of barytes dissolves in water, is not chagned by pure ammonia, but its carbonate, as well as all other alcaline carbonates, throws down a white precipitate, which is carbonate of barytes.

Poisons.	*Symptoms.*	*Treatment.*	*Tests.*
Nitre or saltpetre. (Nitrate of potass.)	Pain, nausea, painful vomiting, purging, convulsions, fainting, pulse feeble, extremities cold, with tearing pains of the stomach and bowels; difficult respiration, a kind of intoxication, and death.	Similar to that of arsenic, except that lime is not to be used.	If nitre be thrown on burning coals, it crackles, and gives a beautiful white flame; if powdered, and sulphuric acid be poured upon it, it gives out white vapours; both these circumstances distinguish it from Glauber's salt. It is decomposed at a high temperature, affording oxygen gas.

The most likely means of obviating the bad effects of nitre in the stomach, is to dilute freely with *warm* water, and to promote vomiting by irritating the gullet and fauces. Clysters of gruel, and even the warm bath, are necessary to support life till the stomach is sufficiently evacuated. An addition of a stimulus, as brandy, peppermint, &c. to the warm water, is sometimes, if not always, proper to prevent the secondary effects, viz. inflammation; bleeding and an opiate may be necessary.

Poisons.	*Symptoms.*	*Treatment.*	*Tests.*
Muriate of ammonia, or sal ammoniac.	Excessive vomitings, with convulsions and general stiffness of the muscles, great pain in the bowels, early alteration of the features, and death.	Vomiting to be rendered easy by large draughts of warm sugared water, and if not occasioned by the poison, should be excited by irritating the fauces and gullet by a finger or feather. The consequent nervous symptoms to be calmed by anodynes and antispasmodics, and inflammatory ones counteracted by the usual means.	Muriate of ammonia is soon volatilized, if placed on hot coals; if rubbed with quicklime or potass it gives out a pungent odour. A white precipitate ensues, on adding to a solution the nitrate of silver.

If the muriate of ammonia was swallowed before it was properly dissolved, *warm* water should be drank freely; but if the salt was completely dissolved, tepid water will answer best. The object of frequent and copious draughts of water is not only to dilute the salt, but to facilitate vomiting. After the stomach has been well washed out, an anodyne, with a solution of gum arabic in the almond emulsion should be administered, and in case of much pain in the stomach, or fever, abstraction of blood will be necessary.

Poisons.	*Symptoms.*	*Treatment.*	*Tests.*
Phosphorus.	Occasions symptoms similar to those of concentrated acids.	No specific antidote is known, but vomiting should be excited by large draughts of water, and oil or fatty substances should be avoided.	If phosphorus, or the rejected contents of the stomach after it has been taken, be boiled in a retort, having its beak under water, with a solution of potass, phosphorated hydrogen gas is formed, which explodes with a green flame, as soon as it reaches the surface of the water.

Poisons.	*Symptoms.*	*Treatment.*
Glass or Enamel.	If taken in very coarse powder, it produces irritation, and inflammation of the bowels.	Large quantities of crumb of bread should be eaten, to envelope the particles. An emetic of sulphate of zinc should then be given, and vomiting promoted by demulcent drinks.

We should think that the arrow-root jelly or thick milk would answer better than "large quantities of the crumb of bread" in preventing the mechanical effects of powdered glass.

Poisons.	*Symptoms.*	*Treatment.*
Alcohol. Brandy, Wines, and all spirituous Liquors.	Intoxication, and when taken very freely, complete insensibility, with apoplexy or paralysis of one side; the countenance is swoln, and of a dark	A powerful emetic of white vitriol or tartar emetic, should be got into the stomach as soon as possible, and if the person has lost the power of swallowing, a flexible catheter or

Poisons.	*Symptoms.*	*Treatment.*
Alcohol, &c. continued.	red colour; the breathing is difficult, and often stertorous, with a peculiar puffing out of the lips; the breath smells of liquors, which will distinguish the symptoms from those of spontaneous apoplexy.	tube should be the means of conveying it there. The vomiting should be encouraged as much as possible with warm water, and large and active clysters of salt and water should be thrown up. The patient should be placed erect, and if the countenance and other appearances are not improved after these means have been used, the jugular vein may be opened, and cold wet cloths applied to the head, particularly if the body is hotter than natural. If the extremities become cold, warmth and friction should be perseveringly used.

If one side of the body be clearly paralyzed, there can be no doubt of its being the effect of that compression of brain, from over-distention of the vessels of the head, or effusion of blood, which constitutes apoplexy, in which case blood should be taken from the jugular vein copiously before the exhibition of an emetic, or any attempt be made to excite vomiting. Indeed, in such a case, the propriety of provoking vomiting, is very questionable, for during the operation, the influx of blood to the brain is very considerably increased. Phosphorus and spirituous liquors, the learned author notices under the head of *mineral* poisons!!!

VEGETABLE POISONS.

Irritating Poisons.	*Symptoms.*	*Treatment.*
Monk's wood. Bryony. Meadow saffron. Spurge laurel. Hemlock dropwort. Poison oak, &c.	The general effects of this class of vegetable poisons, are an acrid pungent taste, with more or less of bitterness, excessive heat, great dryness of the mouth and throat, with sense of tightness in it; violent vomitings, and the efforts are continued even after the stomach is emptied; purging, with great pain in the stomach and bowels; pulse strong, frequent, and regular; breathing often quick and difficult, appearances of intoxication, the pupils of the eyes frequently dilated, insensibility resembling death, the pulse becomes slow and loses its force, and death closes the scene. If applied externally, some produce violent inflammation of the skin, small blisters, or eruptions of pustules.	If vomiting has been occasioned by the poison, and the efforts are still continued, large draughts of warm water, or thin gruel, should be administered; but if symptoms of insensibility have come on without vomiting, it ought to be immediately excited by the sulphate of zinc, or some other active emetic substance, and after its operation an active purgative should be given. After as much as possible of the poison is got rid of, a very strong infusion of coffee, or vinegar diluted with water, may be given with advantage; camphor mixture with æther may be taken frequently, and if insensibility be considerable, warmth, frictions, and blisters may be employed. If inflammation or other dangerous consequences have been induced they are to be treated upon general principles. The fruit of the *Feuillea Cordifolia* has been lately recommended as a powerful antidote against vegetable poisons; it is to be used in as recent a state as possible.

Narcotic Poisons.	*Symptoms.*	*Treatment.*
Deadly nightshade. Water hemlock. Hemlock. Thornapple. Henbane. Strong scented lettuce. Common laurel. Opium. Woody nightshade. Crow fig, &c.	The narcotic vegetable poisons, if taken into the stomach, or applied to a wound, occasion the following effects:—Stupor, numbness, heaviness in the head, desire to vomit, slight at first, but afterwards violent; a sort of intoxication, stupidity, dilatation of the pupils of the eyes, furious or lively delirium, sometimes pain, convulsions of different parts of the body, or palsy of the limbs. The pulse is variable, but at first generally strong and full; the breathing is quick, and there is great anxiety and dejection, which if not speedily relieved soon ends in death.	The stomach to be effectually evacuated by giving four or five grains of tartar emetic, or from ten to twenty of the sulphate of zinc, and repeat it every quarter of an hour till the full effect is produced. These means may be assisted by tickling the throat with a feather, or the finger. Large and strong glysters of soap dissolved in water, or of salt and gruel, should be administered, to clear the bowels and assist in getting rid of the poison, and active purgatives may be given after the vomiting has ceased. When as much as possible of the poison has been expelled, the patient may drink alternately a tea-cup full of strong infusion of coffee (very warm), and vinegar diluted with water. If the drowsiness, which is sometimes extreme, and the insensibility bordering on apoplexy, be not remedied by these means, blood may be taken from the jugular vein, blisters may be applied to the neck and legs, and the attention roused by every means possible. If the heat declines, warmth and frictions must be perseveringly used. Vegetable acids are on no account to be given before the poison is expelled, and it is desirable that but little fluid of any kind should be given.

Of the propriety of bleeding a person when "the drowsiness is extreme, and the insensibility borders on apoplexy," we have great doubts. These appearances are evidently the *debilitating* effects of the poison on the whole system, and not of compression of the brain, and the loss of blood under such circumstances would assuredly accelerate death. Why, "*on no account*," vegetable acids should not be administered, and "but little fluid of *any kind* should be given till the poison is evacuated," we know of no reason. For our parts we should certainly administer very freely warm water with an acid (the lemon juice or vinegar), with the view of diminishing the virulence of the poison and promoting vomiting.

Poisonous Mushrooms.	*Symptoms.*	*Treatment.*
Fly agaric. Pepper agaric. Deadly agaric. Champignon.	Nausea, heat, and pain in the stomach and bowels, with vomiting and purging; thirst, convulsions, and faintings; pulse small and frequent; delirium, dilated pupil and stupor, cold sweats, and death. Poisonous mushrooms may be distinguished by their botanical characters and the following criteria: they grow in wet shady places, have a nauseous odour, are softer, more open and porous, have a dirty looking surface, sometimes a gaudy colour, or many very distinct hues, particularly if they have been covered with an envelope; they have soft bulbous stalks, grow rapidly, and corrupt very quickly.	The stomach and bowels to be first cleared by an emetic of tartarized antimony, followed by frequent doses of Glauber or Epsom salts, and large stimulating clysters. After the poison is evacuated æther may be administered with small quantities of brandy and water; but if inflammatory symptoms appear, such stimuli should be omitted, and other means had recourse to.

Animal Poisons in our next.

This chart has been very *politically* noticed in two periodical medical works.—Dr. Uwins, in the Medical Repository, observes, that he "transcribed the title, not for the purpose of analysis, but merely in order *to recommend the production.* So fully," says he, "do we (the editors) agree with the author as to the utility of the immediate reference it affords, that it is our intention to place the chart *upon* the walls of our own study, and we advise *all* medical practitioners to do the same." *Doctor* James Johnson, in his quarterly pamphlet, observes, "we have placed the chart in our *own library*, and we think no medical man should be without it." The learned *Doctor* also states, in the same words as the author, that in the chart *is* exhibited at one view, the symptoms, treatment and modes of detecting the various poisons, &c. Whether the chart was written by Dr. Uwins or by *Dr.* Johnson, we shall not take the trouble to inquire. As Dr. Uwins professes to give an analysis of all new publications on medicine, it was his duty to have given an analysis of this chart that would enable his readers to form some idea of its merits. To recommend them to purchase so contemptible a production, was a shameful abuse of that confidence, which they have, hitherto, placed in his opinions. The encomiums of *Dr.* Johnson, if gratifying to the author, are not likely to deceive his readers, if *readers* he has. In a work, conducted by a man of science and independence, as Dr. Uwins is allowed to be, we should not expect to meet with a *friendly* review.

FEEDING, CLOTHING, &c. OF CHILDREN. By Dr. DAVIS.—*Continued from page* 650, RULE 17. If a young child takes but little exercise, give it but little solid food, increasing it in proportion to the exercise taken—*to obviate thirst, fever, head-ache, and glandular obstructions.*

18. Should a child's breath smell offensively, the stomach is disordered, or worms exist. Should its belly grow large, its complexion become pale, and skin soft, disease has already commenced.—*In either of these cases the child will require good and open air.*

The most efficacious remedy for removing worms and slime from the intestines of children is the *basilic powder.* If the lungs are affected, (evident by cough or difficulty of breathing), it should not be exposed to the open air. In such case medical aid should he resorted to on the first attack, to prevent extensive inflammation of the lungs, pleura, &c.—*Ed.*

19. In a fit.—Untie the clothes, raise the head, wipe away all froth from the mouth, and keep it open, pressing down the tongue, and drawing it forward at the same time. Let the child be *first* quickly exposed to cool fresh air, and its face sprinkled with cold water; *then*, gently rub, with a warm hand, the belly, back, and limbs; apply a succession of warm flannels to them, or resort to a warm bath, and put warm tiles under the arm pits; strike the soles of the feet smartly with a piece of flat wood, tickle the nostrils and inside of the ear with a feather or tooth-pick. To an infant, give five drops of hartshorn, in a little water; to a child two years old, ten drops in a little water.

N. B. Remember, though no signs of life appear, it is necessary for two hours to act up to these directions. *Caution.*—Do not suffer the head to hang back, or to lean forward upon the chest.

We are satisfied that it is not in the power of art to shorten a convulsive fit, and that by "striking the soles of the feet, tickling the nostrils, pulling forward the tongue," and such officiousness, the fit is often prolonged so as to endanger life; the best plan is to let the fit run its course, and afterward to prevent its recurrence by attending to the general health, and particularly by quieting the brain and nervous system, and keeping the bowels in a regular state.—*Ed.*

Caution.—1. Never let an infant sleep alone in cold weather—*for fear of suffocation.*

Infants appear to be much annoyed by the pressure of the bedclothes, and, on waking, they uniformly kick them off. One important use of a bedfellow is, therefore, to keep the infant properly covered during a cold night. Some months ago, a young child was found dead, apparently in consequence of the body having been exposed to the atmosphere, during a very cold night.—*Ed.*

2. Never let an infant sleep the whole night on the mother's arm—*for fear of suffocation.*

3. Never awake an infant out of a sound sleep, by rough means—*for fear of producing fits.*

4. Avoid the use of tight bandages, especially round the body—*for fear of producing fits, obstructions in the bowels, or decline.*

Tight bandages round the body, by interrupting the general circulation of the blood, occasions partial plethora or determinations, the consequences of which are deformities, effusions of the brain as fits, convulsions and inflammatory action in the lungs, weakness of the lower extremities, &c.—*Ed.*

5. Avoid giving Godfrey's Cordial, Daffy's Elixir, or any other warm anodyne, or quack medicine—*for fear of producing fits, fever, or palsy, a common consequence of quack medicines indiscreetly given.*

6. Avoid feeding infants in the night—*for fear of bringing on the gripes, from over distension of the stomach.*

The propriety of feeding a child during night must depend on the time it was put to bed; a little feeding we consider generally necessary. Much, however, must depend on its general health and the state of the stomach. Some children absolutely require frequent feeding.—Ed.

7. Avoid warm nurseries and close air—*for fear of making a child delicate, weakly, and susceptible of cold.*

8. Avoid carrying a child always on the same arm—*for fear of making it crooked.*

9. Never confine a child's limbs by wrapping its clothes tight round it, especially at night—*by inaction of the muscles, and retention of moisture, the child will become weak and sickly.*

10. Avoid exposing an infant to the open air, in a cold season, when its bowels are disordered, or if it has shortness of breathing, with fever and cough—*for fear of bringing on a high degree of inflammation.*

11. Never allow a child's food to be chewed—*it is not only a nasty practice, but if the nurse has a sore mouth, or sore gums, she may communicate disease.*

By mastication of meat by the nurse, it is deprived of its nutritive portion—the gravy.—Ed.

12. Never provoke violent laughter, nor disregard violent crying—*for fear of a fit in either case.*

13. Never wash a child with milk, with a view to heal a chafed part—*milk will inflame, and cold water heal.*

Food and Feeding.—Axiom.—*Ever keep in mind, that it is generally right to be sparing in the quantity of food; for over feeding, as well as feeding improperly, are highly injurious.*

A healthy infant will require only breast milk for four months; but if weakly, and the mother's milk is small in quantity, it will stand in need of a small cup of beef tea daily. At the end of four months it should be fed twice a day, once with bread and milk diluted with water, or biscuit powder well boiled in water, and mixed with milk, and once with light broth and bread, arrow-root, or rice. At eight or nine months it should be fed three times in twenty-four hours; and then more solid food should likewise be given daily, as a bread or rice pudding. For an infant taken early from the breast, the diet should principally consist of cows' milk mixed with the jelly made from tops and bottoms, and of light broth with bread or rice. If the child has a purging, the milk should be boiled.

Beef tea, as generally made, by *boiling* the meat in water, does not digest easily in the stomach of a child, being so much loaded with jelly. When made as it should be, by pouring a little boiling water over a bruised piece of fresh lean beef, so as merely to extract the succulent part, it is nutritious and easy of digestion. The red gravy from the interior of a roasted piece of beef or mutton, is preferable to it. Weakly children only require such nutriment.—*Ed.*

After the first year, animal food in substance may be given twice a week to children in health. To those, four or five years old, animal food may be allowed daily; and bread and milk, night and morning. Particular care is however necessary not to give nutriment in large quantities to children who take but little exercise, or to those who are weakly, for in such, an excess or even a great variety of food is apt to produce worms, convulsions, rickets, slow fever, scrofula, and purging.

The acid change of food is a common cause of disease in children. If a child at the breast be repeatedly attacked with the gripes and falls away, change the diet from milk to one consisting of broths, beef tea, and light puddings; and to aid in preventing a return of the gripes, exercise the child well in the open air. In this case, it will be proper, also, for the mother to live chiefly upon animal food. In general, the use of spices in children's food is to be reprobated; and in illness, the diet of all children should be as light as possible. In fever, drinks containing nourishment, such as barley-water, toast and water, thin tapioca, and rice water, will be proper, taken cold in summer, and warm in winter. In obstinate purgings, children must have rice, arrow-root, and also hartshorn shavings boiled in beef tea, or beef tea thickened with baked flour, or sago and thick milk: and much good has been derived from putting a flannel roller loosely round the body, when the purging resists these means.

When a child is subject to flatulence and griping pains, a carminative is necessary, as the spearmint or dill water.—*Ed.*

Dress and dressing.—Axiom.—*Over clothing, and clothing improperly, make a child tender, and subject to cold.*

A child requires fewer clothes than a grown up person; a short shift, and a flannel waistcoat tied behind, with a short petticoat sewed to it, and a short gown, rather stouter in winter than in summer, is all the body dress that a child requires; more clothes only make it tender, chilly, and subject to colds, unless it is weakly, and then a flannel shirt is sometimes useful. Until an infant reaches the seventh or eighth month, it is best without shoes or stockings; neither can its petticoats be too short. The whole dress of children, whatever may be their age, should be perfectly loose and easy, so as to allow of free motion to the limbs. It is highly beneficial to expose the legs and arms of all children, and breasts also of *healthy* ones, to the open air.

Exposure of the legs and arms of infants to the open air, when cold or in a current state, that are predisposed to affection of the lungs or head, is a bad practice.—*Ed.*

Exercise and sleep.—Axiom.—*Never prevent a child from attempting to walk, however young it may be.*

When a child seeks to put upon its feet the ground, let it do so, but do not force it to walk. This effort at exercise is both pleasant and serviceable to a child; it is proper to encourage it in this, and as it grows up, regularly to exercise, but to avoid fatiguing it. Amuse and employ a child, but never suffer it to be still when it is right for it to be in motion, and actively employed. In exercising any child, however, avoid fatiguing it, and particularly a sickly one; a weakly child ought not to be allowed to stand or walk long together; therefore it should be alternately carried in the arms, drawn in a vehicle, and invited to walk. The practice of placing children on the damp ground after fatiguing them with long walks, cannot be too much reprobated.

Until the third year, most children require an hour's sleep in the middle of the day; after which, they should be invariably exercised till they begin to be tired, and may be put to rest at seven o'clock. In summer, let them rise at six, and in the winter at seven.

Air.—Axiom.—*It is indispensably requisite to bear without inconvenience the vicissitudes of the atmosphere.*

A free and continued exposure to the open air is of the utmost consequence to children's health; the sooner infants are taken into it, the faster they will thrive; in the air they grow up strong, less subject to cold, disordered bowels, convulsions and rickets; complaints so frequent among those children who are reared in nurseries. Not only the face, but the legs, thighs, and arms, should be freely exposed to the air. Even in confined streets in the populous districts of the metropolis, it is of infinite service to keep the children out of doors; and the poor should set open the bed-room windows and doors of their habitations; those children who have been properly exposed to the air from birth, may be safely exercised in it, if *healthy*, in all seasons.

More children lose their lives by diseases occasioned by exposure to an open atmosphere, and by being allowed to crawl on the ground, than from any other cause. Almost all inflammatory complaints of the head, chest, and belly, may be traced to these practices.—*Ed.*

Cold Bath and Bathing.—Axiom.—*Frequent bathing is conducive to cleanliness; it imparts vigour to the muscles and nerves, and promotes alacrity and cheerfulness of mind.*

In a striking manner does the cold bath preserve and promote the health of the infant race. It is proper to begin the practice of dipping in warm weather, and to continue it through every season after. The cold bath is not only a serviceable application to children in *health*, but to those that are *sickly* also, especially the ricketty; it may be resorted to thrice a week; a sudden dip, twice repeated each time of using the bath, will be sufficient. The more delicate and weakly require the chill to be taken off the water the first and second time of going into it. If the shock of a cold bath appears too powerful for the constitution, partial bathing with salt water, or wiping the body with a sponge dipped in it, may be substituted, and is often highly useful. Sea bathing is preferred for those having the evil.

Immediately after bathing let the child be wrapped in a blanket and well dried, and if it be disposed to sleep, allow it to do so; if not, it may be dressed and suffered to run about; weakly children using the cold bath may wear a flannel shirt. Although the warm bath is rarely employed except in disease, yet both the cold and the warm bath are remedies against eruptions on the skin, by washing off those salt and acrid particles which are left upon it by perspiration. Excoriations are effectually obviated by frequently washing the parts of the body subject to them with cold water.

For ricketty children, cold bathing three times a week is unquestionably an important remedy. For children disposed to inflammatory affections of the chest, or bowel complaints, it should never be employed without the sanction of an experienced practitioner.—*Ed.*

We purchased Dr. Davis's pamphlet under the idea that it was written by Dr. Davies, lecturer on midwifery, and physician-accoucheur to the Westminster Lying-in Hospital. The perusal of a few pages soon convinced us that it was not from the pen of that justly eminent practitioner. The author styles himself *senior* physician to, and founder of, an universal dispensary for children, established four years ago, under the patronage of royal dukes, several right honourables of both sexes, several bishops, &c. To obtain the sanction of a charity by royal dukes, duchesses, and nobles, it is only necessary to acquaint them with the *humane* object of the institution. Under the pretence of benefiting the human race, or lessening the sum of human misery in the lower classes, many handsome donations have been obtained. About two or three years ago, during a consultation with a lady of distinction, the servant entered the room with a printed receipt for two guineas, being her ladyship's *annual* subscription to a certain doctor's charity, for delivering poor married women at their own houses. Her ladyship paid it most cheerfully, observing to us at the time, "What a most excellent charity this is, and what a good man the doctor was to institute it." To this charity each subscriber had a right to recommend four or five patients in the course of the year. They were attended gratuitously at their own houses, and supplied with a little money. The *founder* of this institution was a lecturer on midwifery; the patients were attended by

his pupils, and each pupil was required to pay out of his own pocket five or ten shillings to the patient after she was delivered, according to her circumstances. The whole of the annual subscriptions, which amounted to several hundreds (for his connexion was respectable and extensive), after the deduction of the expence of collecting, found its way to the doctor's own private coffer!! By this most praiseworthy undertaking the doctor obtained patients for his pupils, which he would not have been otherwise able to procure. We do not mean to insinuate that *Doctor* Davis's "Universal Dispensary" is of this kind; we only wish to induce the subscribers to inquire who is the *junior physician* (the Doctor having styled himself the *senior*), who is the treasurer and secretary, the amount of the donations and annual subscriptions, and a statement of expences. The *Doctor* having commenced his work with an account of his dispensary, and added that a donation of twenty guineas entitles a person to all the *advantages* of an annual subscriber, we suspect *one* object of the publication is the support of so valuable a charity. As to the work itself, it contains nothing new; it is indeed very inferior to the little treatise on the management of infants published many years ago by the late Dr. Cadogan.

PUERPERAL FEVER.—Dr. Uwins has published two cases of puerperal fever, which were communicated to him by a Mr. E. Sutleffe, of Queen Street, London, whom the Doctor styles a *Surgeon.* The subject of the first was advanced in life, and exceedingly encumbered with obesity. Two days after labour (which was natural) she "was *seized* with rigour, fever, and *abdominal* pain." On the *Surgeon's* arrival he "endeavoured to abstract blood from *several* orifices, but in vain; no blood would flow!!" "*Thirty* leeches were then put *upon the painful part*, which *gave* immediate relief." Warm clysters he "repeatedly introduced, and expended the whole day upon this *individual* patient." "I was," says this eminent Surgeon, "determined nothing should be left which could contribute towards her recovery. Calomel and pulv. ant. (the antimonial febrifuge powder) were *freely* given, and *by* the evening all *painful* symptoms were so much reduced, that" the Surgeon "turned his attention to his other patients;" the "pulse, however, continued *full and rapid* as before." "In two days afterwards the abdominal pain returned with *increased* violence, which bade defiance to all remedial measures, and on the sixth day after delivery she expired!!!" Now as the pulse continued "full and rapid," what could possibly prevent the blood flowing freely from a vein *properly* opened? The cessation of the pain after the abstraction of blood by leeches, seems to indicate that if the patient had been bled copiously, she would have recovered.

The subject of the other case was "a little delicate lady." Four days after delivery, Surgeon Sutleffe of Queen Street "was *quickly* summoned, and found the pulse *full* and *bounding*, fever, *abdominal* pain, &c" The surgeon on his arrival "*immediately* REMOVED *several ounces of blood*, and ordered fomentation, Extr. Colocynth. comp. c. Calomel: (comp. Extract of Bitter Apple, with Calomel)." "The blood was buffed and cupped." "Relief was apparently complete, but *at* the expiration of two days *more*, the same process of bleeding, &c.

was obliged to be resorted to, and finally with success." The Surgeon adds, "such is the *gratitude* of the patient, a Mrs. G. of Goswell-Street, that *she* considers her protracted existence owing to the measures resorted to."

The publication of the latter case, as *confirming* the good effects of copious bleeding in puerperal fever, (a practice inculcated by all teachers) may be deserving of some notice by an editor of a monthly work, particularly at a time when the medical world appears to be slumbering; but the publication of the first case betrays a want of sufficient regard for the professional reputation of his friend the surgeon of Queen Street. Surely, as a friend of Surgeon Sutleffe, and as the editor of a "scientific journal," it was incumbent on Dr. Uwins to have improved the *Surgeon's* style of writing. We have seen many specimens of elegant *medical* Latin, but we never met with such an elegant specimen of *medical* English before. It absolutely surpasses, in the sublime and beautiful, the *theatrical* style of *Dr.* James Johnson.

ACETIC ACID.—Surgeon Sutleffe of Queen Street has also communicated the following observations, "on the utility of the *gaseous* forms of the acetic acid in correcting putrescency," to his friend Dr. Uwins, which we give in his own peculiar elegant phraseology.

"Having been in the *private* and *public* department of the *medical* routine for nearly thirty-four years, I take the liberty of suggesting the result of my individual experience, relative to the steam of vinegar; indeed, when I reflect upon the numerous accounts of the *spread* of contagion, until *every* individual became infected by the *atmospheric* influence, I smite *upon* my breast, and cry, "God be merciful," for having withheld *my* preventive *quota* so long from the Profession. (!!!)

"When I am called to a case of ardent fever, ushered in with rigour, &c. I pursue my usual course of emetic and purge, and the full use of antiphlogistic regimen; and, if the pulse require it, venesection; if not, probably leeches and blistering topically; adding pretty copiously pulv. ant. and calomel, equal parts of which, I mostly find, reduce the febrile symptoms, and establish a *new* action of *ptyalism*, which immediately relieves the symptoms, though they be not of *recent formation*. But the principal motive of taking up my pen was to detail the virtues of the fumes of common vinegar, suffered to be emitted in the room of my patient, placed over a lamp kept constantly burning. Whether the *pungency of typhus* be an *ammoniacal* exhalation, of which the olfactory nerves will offer pretty strong proof, I am not *prepared* to determine; but I think I may say, without a fear of contradiction, that the acetic acid meets with an *alcali* and neutralizes it; relieves the patient, aids his recovery, and, above all, *precludes the possibility* of *transmitting the infection*. (!!) The sulphuric acid poured upon the muriate of soda, I consider a *perfect* bagatelle; and, at *any rate*, this I can affirm, that hitherto, in the whole course of my medical practice, I have never met with a second party susceptible of the typhus or scarlatina, (except in one doubtful instance,) after the gaseous fumes of acetic acid had been suffered to rise."

AGUE.—Dr. Wesener, a German physician and surgeon, of some repute, after having treated numerous cases of this disease, which in 1809 and 1810 prevailed in the neighbourhood of Dulmen, states that he is convinced that it is communicable by contact, and particularly by the perspiration of the patient. He condemns large doses of the Peruvian bark, and asserts that a cure may be effected, more certainly and speedily, by small doses. His practice is to give the following powder every two hours, during the intermission.

Take of Peruvian bark, in powder;
Cinnamon bark, ditto, of each fifty grains;
Sweet flag root, ditto, twenty grains.

Mix.

TYPHUS FEVER.—In a report of this disease, which prevailed in the village of Taplow, in Buckinghamshire, by Surgeon Robarts, he states "the confidence with which he had pursued the bleeding system of Drs. Armstrong and Bateman was greatly shaken by further experience." He continued, however, to institute one full bleeding, from the effects of which he felt the strongest objection to venturing on a second; and it was only in some few cases, where leeches to the temples did not remove the pain in the head, and every symptom of inflammatory excitement, that he had recourse to a further small abstraction of blood from the arm. He admits that the patient who complained of pain and uneasiness in the head, experienced great, and oftentimes complete relief, from local or general bleeding. That the brain is primarily and chiefly affected in this disease, he is convinced; "and therefore," says he, "it is of the greatest importance that it should be relieved, as speedily as possible, by bleeding;" otherwise irremediable injury may ensue, and that general affection of the nervous system which establishes typhus fever.

CONTUSED WOUND OF THE SCALP.—Sins,—On the late trial of Edward Callaghan, and others, for the wilful murder of Jeremiah Carthy, a Mr. Natorff, who styles himself a German apothecary, gave an opinion, that "the unfortunate man came to his death in consequence of the blow he had received on his head." Evidence having been given, that on examination of the head after death, by a surgeon, the skull was found to be fractured, and considerably depressed, Mr. Natorff was asked why he did not examine the skull when he first saw the patient, which was a few minutes after he received the wound. After some little hesitation, he replied, that the scalp was so much tumefied, that he could not ascertain the state of the skull beneath the wound. Had this person been acquainted with surgery, he would have known that the extent of the mischief, or tumefication of the scalp, pointed out the necessity of making an incision down to the skull, to ascertain if it had sustained injury. Had this been done, by a properly educated surgeon, the wound would not have terminated fatally. The result of this case, forcibly points out the great impropriety of apothecaries undertaking the management of such, or indeed any other, wounds or accidents. In London, there are many German practitioners (some of whom style themselves apothecaries, and others physicians), who pretend to cure diseases by herbs; and many, by their specious advertisements, have

acquired large fortunes, although totally ignorant of diseases and remedies. There is now one, in the neighbourhood of London, who, by dint of impudence and a regular system of puffing, has been so successful in picking the pockets of the credulous, as to be enabled to keep up an extensive establishment of carriages (one for his *lady*), livery servants, &c. If the College of Physicians had the good of the public at heart, as much as they have their own aggrandizement, they would not allow such impostors to exercise their art of plundering the miserable with impunity. As to Mr. Natorff, it behoves the College of Surgeons to make some inquiry respecting his qualification to exercise the art of surgery, as well as of other *German* practitioners, many of whom came to this country in the capacity of servants. In the hope that you will make a further exposure of the ignorance of the water and herb doctors, as well as the industrious advertisers, *Dr.* Eady, *Dr.* Jordan, *Dr.* Lynch, and others,

I subscribe myself, your sincere Friend,

St. James's Street, Sept. 16, 1820. THOMAS ATWOOD.

EFFECTS OF EXTERNAL COLD ON THE STOMACH.—Sirs,—The last Number of your valuable work contains a communication subscribed "Chemicus," of an extraordinary cure which was effected by a gill of brandy, and an indiscriminate quantity of camphor, administered at very short intervals to a patient in imminent danger, from having imprudently drank cold water, under circumstances of profuse perspiration. The detail being defective as to the quantity of camphor exhibited, my memory serves me to assist him on this point, the case having been more minutely recorded in a public newspaper, not six months since. It is there stated as being that of half an ounce—a dose which (your medical friends will readily admit) would have exceedingly disturbed the stomach of Mithridates' self, even in spite of his celebrated antidote. Now, as I will not dispute but that the stubborn nature of the person's constitution, or powers of reaction of his stomach, might have repelled these doses in the usual way, I beg to assure him, under the experience which a professional life has afforded me, that neither is the case or means of relief at all novel; but as regards the extraordinary quantity of camphor, &c. I will explain to him, as far as my judgment extends, the nature of the effect on the stomach of the sudden application of cold: it being well known, that this organ sympathizes with every affection of the skin of the whole surface of the body. It is within the observation of every one, that cold, by its constrictive influence on the pores, excites keen hunger, from a correspondent action on the coats of the stomach; and, on the contrary, that a moist warm air, by relaxing it, produces an exactly opposite effect. Warm water drank largely throws the body into a state of general perspiration, as cold water suddenly and powerfully checks it. It is obvious, that such repressing effect on the cutaneous exhalants is strictly that of a spasmodic affection, communicated from this organ, with which they are in immediate unison. Pain, rigors, and febrile commotion quickly ensue, which, in a greater or less degree, put the patient's life at stake, and many have been the victims to such precipitate conduct. If, under these circumstances, medical counsel was asked from any

old nurse in a country village, common perception alone would suggest to her the propriety of something warm being immediately administered; and though the dram-bottle would probably strike her senses as the most appropriate remedy, from a predilection common enough to females of that useful calling in life, yet I will venture to assert, that less risk and equal benefit would be found in repeated draughts of very warm water, till it produces nausea, as the mischief to be principally dreaded is inflammation of the stomach, which ardent spirit, &c. are so well calculated to excite in the instance in question. I attribute to *Chemicus* all the humanity which he claims in his preface, as well as profound acquaintance with the rise, progress, and present state of philosophical science; but it appears to me, that he has as yet to learn something of the *principia*, or elements of physic. I demand from him the imputation of a right motive in making this remark, which I am well aware exposes me to that of a wrong one. But I have nothing of the Κυων in my nature, and do insist, that the public recommendation of a *safe* and certain remedy under the distressing emergence which is the subject of the present memoir, gives me as indisputed right to the character of benevolence, as that which I so readily accede to Chemicus; and I confess myself somewhat pleased with the assumed title subscribed at the bottom of this paper, as being, in my estimation, a character of greater comparative worth than many others whom I could have selected, though fame has transmitted their names to posterity as having been, in their day, ornaments and luminaries in medical science.

SANGRADO.

London, Sept. 12th, 1820.

Chemicus did state that the proportion of camphor was half an ounce; but as a gill of brandy would not dissolve a quarter of that quantity, and that, even in the quantity it was capable of taking up, it would probably do irreparable mischief, the editors omitted to specify the proportion, and subjoined a note to caution their non-medical readers against the use of such a powerful stimulus. Camphor administered in the dose of half a drachm has produced furious delirium, and in one instance it was followed by permanent insanity. The quantity of half a drachm of camphor, introduced into the stomach of a dog, in a few minutes produced every symptom of madness. The exhibition of half an ounce, within an hour or two, at short intervals, would therefore probably destroy life.

DE VELNOS'S VEGETABLE SYRUP.—This nostrum is prepared by a Mr. Canham, to whom, with his art of puffing, the recipe was left by his uncle, the late Mr. Swainson. Mr. Canham, in his *scientific* dissertation on its wonderful alterative or corrective properties, observes, "That its operation is on the glandular *and* lymphatic system; and the *general care* should be that it is *properly* retained in the stomach and bowels, *to form a stimulant and corrective chyle*, to be conveyed into *that* system!!!" "When a small quantity purges, in order to enable the stomach and bowels to retain the medicine *sufficiently* to be taken up by the lacteals, recourse must be had to a little opium;" but, says the considerate proprietor, "not without Mr. Canham's advice!!!" After some observations on diet, in which he en-

forces an observance of *abstinence*, he remarks, "The assistance of surgery or of general medicine should *never* be called in without the advice or knowledge of Mr. Canham; for in humours and inflammations of a scorbutic nature, *many of the common processes of surgery are inimical to the* OPERATION *of the syrup, the use of the knife producing ulcers and scars, which would not otherwise take place!!!*" This advice merits the attention of the College of Surgeons. The learned *practitioner* proceeds, "As the first effects of medicine are different in different constitutions, and *little* difficulties perplex the *inexperienced*, Mr Canham is *extremely desirous* that no case of consequence be undertaken *without his knowledge, assistance, and advice!!!* But as the proprietors of medicine," says this most humane and disinterested *vegetable practitioner*, "are GENERALLY *impostors, furnished with the titles of Doctors, or audaciously assuming them*, (Eady, Jordan, Gardiner, &c.) *Mr.* Canham, *whose situation and circumstances* places him *beyond pecuniary influence*, will *not allow* EVEN *interested ill-nature to class him among either* REGULAR *or irregular empirics*," (Latham, &c.) This spirited gentleman seems to be as *practically* acquainted with the trade of quackery as Dr. Faithorne is practically acquainted with diseases of the liver, or Dr. Bree with those of disordered respiration.

Mr. Canham, who "makes the vegetable kingdom his study," in order to be "better enabled to give advice, and *to administer* auxiliaries to the vegetable syrup, *in cases of difficulty and importance, without going out of the vegetable world*," has ascertained, "that the most deplorable and fatal cases of debility, as consumption, asthma, palsy, dropsy, epilepsy, &c. are in *three* instances out of *four* owing to the use of mercury, antimony, arsenic, lead, copper, zinc, or steel, which *now* enter, more or less, into almost *all* medicines for *all* disorders. No man," says he, "can describe what I daily see from the operation of these *pretended* medicines!!!" To a man of such tender feelings, and particularly one who is so deeply interested in the health and happiness of his fellow creatures, such sights must indeed be most afflicting. The vegetable syrup, he assures his readers, "corrects, purifies, and sweetens the blood, and cures those who are afflicted with scrofula, leprosy, scurvy, scorbutic eruptions, and many of the melancholy diseases arising from impurity of the *blood* and *juices*. It operates on the *animal* juices, and requires only the common restraints of moderation in diet. *Temperance*," he adds, "is favourable to every object respecting health; but this medicine being wholly vegetable, a *low vegetable diet is not the most friendly to its* SALUTARY *operations!!!*"

We find, on chemical examination of this wonderfully purifying syrup, that no mineral production enters the composition; and being composed of vegetable matter only, it is not in the power of chemistry to discover the vegetables from which the extractive matter it contains was obtained. The composition is water, sugar, and a vegetable extract, in the following proportions, in a 13*s*. bottle:

Water - -	11 ounces.
Sugar - -	14½ do.
Vegetable Syrup -	0½ do.
	26 ounces.

The vegetable extract is so burnt, that it has no other flavor than that of empyreuma. It consequently contains no medicinal virtue whatever. The syrup is therefore, in fact, a simple solution of sugar, coloured; and if an invalid, who has *fancied* that he has derived benefit from it, will take common syrup, coloured with burnt sugar, with the same degree of confidence, and the same observance of temperance, we will venture to assert that he will receive the same benefit. No chemist, nor medical practitioner of credit, will deny this declaration. By the foregoing assertion, we mean positively to state, that if any hypochondriacal or any other patient has improved in health, during the use of the vegetable syrup, that improvement was the effect of confidence placed in the nostrum, and his observance of temperance. In the West Indies, the natives take sugar, in considerable quantities, to purify the blood, in cases of scurvy, &c.; and in consequence of its operating on the bowels, it generally proves beneficial. In Europe, sugar and syrups, by rapidly running into the acetic fermentation, disorder the stomach, and disturb the general health. The French, who are particularly partial to syrups, are very subject to indigestion. They, and also the natives of the West Indies, who are in the habit of taking sugar, are very liable to ulceration of the stomach and intestines; indeed so subject are the former to indigestion, from the use of sugar, syrups, and sweetmeats, that we never met with an adult who did not complain of indigestion, and particularly of flatulence.

Sugar, and of course syrups, are in fact slow poisons; and when a disease of the skin terminates during the excessive use of sugar, or "of a vegetable syrup," we have no hesitation in asserting, that the complaint gave way only to a more formidable disease the remedy had brought on either in the stomach or intestines.

We have no doubt but that Mr. Canham's vegetable syrup is similar to the antiscorbutic syrup sold in Paris, for "purifying the blood and juices;" which is the decoction of sarsaparilla made into a syrup. If the extractive matter, the vegetable syrup contains, be that of sarsaparilla, a quart-bottle does not contain one dose; a wine-glassful of the simple decoction of the root being equal to two thirteen shilling bottles of the syrup!! The contents of a thirteen shilling bottle cost the proprietor about one shilling—so much for his benevolent views, and the "*advantages* that have been derived from the syrup!!!"

Mr. Canham, we are told, is a "very spirited man;" if so, he will probably give us an opportunity to prove, in a court of justice, the truth of our assertions, which, we assure him, we shall be very happy to do. When the Attorney-general is a little more at leisure, we purpose to direct his attention to a few nostrums, with the view of teaching those who sport with the health of their fellow creatures, for the sake of lucre, (not the learned Mr. Canham of course), that the life of man is too valuable to the possessor, and to the community, to be trifled with by unprincipled pretenders. If Mr. Canham will take the trouble to give a healthy dog the quantity of syrup he recommends an invalid to take daily, he will find, that the powers of his system will give way so rapidly, that he will die in the course of a fortnight.

GAZETTE OF HEALTH.

No. 59. To NOVEMBER 1, 1820. Vol. V.

Of Dr. HENRY HOLLAND,

Late Physician to her present Majesty the Queen of England, Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians, &c. &c.

Dr. Holland is a native of Knutsford, in Cheshire. On finishing his classical education, he matriculated at Edinburgh, where he took the degree of M.D. in the year 1809. During the prosecution of his studies at this celebrated University, so highly were his professional abilities estimated by the professors and pupils, that he was elected President of the Royal Medical Society,—an appointment conferred only on men of scientific attainments, and of the most correct conduct. After he had acquired all the information this school of medicine afforded, he attended the practice of Guy's and St. Thomas's Hospitals, and the Lectures on the different branches of Medicine. In the summer of 1810, the Doctor visited Iceland, where he evinced that turn for observation and inquiry, for which he has ever since been particularly distinguished. During the subsequent year, he published his Travels; a work which, besides much interesting matter, contains an account of the diseases of infancy, particularly of the lock-jaw of infants, which in that country is very prevalent, and usually fatal. He has since extended his travels over the Continent, and some parts of Africa, with the same view of becoming thoroughly acquainted with the healing art, and more particularly with the *practical* knowledge of his profession. In 1812 he passed some time in the Military Hospitals of Portugal; an excellent field for experiment, observation, and varied practice.

Soon after his return to England, he had the honour of being appointed Physician in ordinary to Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, whom he accompanied to the Continent in the year 1814. The selection of a man of such professional and general philosophical attainments, was highly creditable to Her Royal Highness. In consequence of having held this appointment, he was lately examined at the Bar of the House of Lords, relative to the charges which had been preferred against Her Majesty. On this occasion, the Doctor gave an unbiassed evidence, and that too in a manner which, to every impartial person, must have carried full conviction of the truth of his statements. To a question put to him by Lord Erskine, he emphatically replied, "Referring to the *whole* term and to *all* the places I was in attendance upon Her Royal Highness, I *never* observed *any thing* improper in the conduct of Her Royal Highness."

The Doctor, indeed, throughout his long examination, evinced the feelings and firmness of an honest Englishman, and satisfactorily evinced his abhorrence of the *public* investigation of charges which must have a very unfavourable effect on the moral dispo-

sitions of the rising generation, and cast an indelible stigma on a country which has styled itself the most enlightened and liberal in the world.

No set of persons hold unworthy conduct in greater detestation than men of science, and in their hearts do they condemn calumny and the machinations of the wicked to degrade worth and innocence.

On resigning the appointment of Physician to Her Royal Highness, Dr. Holland determined to take up his residence in the metropolis of England. During the summer months, when the metropolis is nearly deserted by the first classes, instead of resorting to a fashionable watering place, like certain physicians of the present day, whose ruling passion is lucre, the Doctor visits the Continent for the purpose of acquainting himself with the progress of medicine at the leading schools. His favourite place is Spa, where he generally resides a month or two.

In 1814, Dr. Holland was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society; and when we consider the quickness of his perception, the solidity of his judgment, and the great variety of his philosophical acquirements, we have no hesitation in declaring our conviction that he will, at no distant period, be one of the leading characters of that Institution.

As a physician, he is second to none in Europe.—On the grand question as to the treatment of a disease, he can bring into his aid, or rather the aid of his patient, the most important branches of medicine. To the care of such a physician, an invalid may resign himself with the thorough conviction that all that art can possibly do, will be done for him. This is indeed, during the period of affliction, a most consolatory impression, tending powerfully to reconcile the patient to his situation, and to produce a state of system which greatly favours the operation of remedies.—Confidence in a practitioner often does more than his remedies, by quieting the nervous system.

The Author of "Authentic Memoirs of the most eminent Physicians and Surgeons in England," introduces the Life of Dr. Holland with the following remark:—

"Travel, we have already stated, gives the finish to professional education and improvement, and the present respectable individual has made so distinguished a figure in this respect, as entitles him to rank high as a man of general science, literature, and professional acquirements."

TEST *of the* GOODNESS *of the* MEADOW SAFFRON.—Many medicines of antient repute have doubtless fallen into disuse, in consequence of having been injudiciously administered, or their medicinal virtues having been impaired or destroyed by age or some improper management. Such has been the fate of the meadow saffron, a remedy highly esteemed by the antients for inflammatory affections and diseases of increased excitement of nerves, and such again may be the lot of this root, which accident has lately brought into repute as a remedy for gout, rheumatism, &c., if some method were not devised, to enable practitioners readily to discover, when it is in a proper condition to be employed; for the state in which it is

now kept in the majority of the shops of chemists and venders of herbs, and even at Apothecaries' Hall, can only produce disappointment to the prescriber. That the reliance of many professional gentlemen of eminence has already been weakened in consequence of the article not having been properly dried, or of having been in a perished state, we have satisfactorily ascertained. Mr. Thomson, author of The London Dispensatory, whilst engaged in the repetition of the experiments of *M. Toddie* on Gluten, was surprised to find how readily this principle is destroyed in many plants by the action of heat; and reflecting on the changes which necessarily take place in all the components of a vegetable body, when one of them is destroyed, he states he was *naturally* led to infer, that those specimens of any medicinal plants in which the components can be preserved in a state the nearest to that which they hold before it is dried, must be the most efficacious and certain in their remedial properties. Mr. Thomson has ascertained, that gluten is one of the constituents of the recent root of the meadow saffron; and discovered that its presence can easily be detected in the dried bulb: and, as he had found those specimens of it, in which this principle can be demonstrated, are the most powerful in their effects, he infers that those only should be regarded as *properly* dried, and fit to be medicinally employed, in which it is found, provided they bear marks of having been gathered at a proper season; and, therefore, the agent by which gluten is detected in the dried bulb, must be regarded as a proper test of its goodness. But before Mr. T. commenced his experiments to prove this opinion, he fixed the exact period at which the bulb should be dug up; and this, he says, is towards the end of July, which some observations he had been making on the physiology of bulbs had already enabled him to determine. The bulb of the last year is completely decayed, and its progeny, the bulbs of the present year, are at their full size, and in their most perfect condition. When dug up, each bulb is found covered with a smooth, shining, thick, mahogany brown coat; it is plump, solid, and in a shape somewhat resembling a pear, the withered remains of the foliage answering to the stem, with a sharp ridge particularly surrounding the base, and terminated in a short appendix. On removing this coat, and a spongy one which is interior to it, a small white oval body, about the tenth part of an inch in breadth, and one-third in length, and slightly elevated, is evident in a depression near the point of this appendix on one side; another of the same description, a little higher up, in another slight depression, on the opposite side of the bulb. These are the rudiments of the expected flowers and leaves; and when the sheath by which they are covered has attained an inch in length, the bulb has already begun to *lose its medicinal qualities*. If it be taken up in July, and sliced transversely, each slice has nearly a circular figure, slightly approximating to the oval, but perfectly free from an indentation on either side; and this form is retained in the dried slice: whereas, when the flowers appear, every slice is panduriform, or an oblong oval with a deep semicircular notch or depression on each side; and every approach to this figure implies that the bulb has been dug up too late in the season.

These indentations arise from the sheaths of the flowers, as they enlarge, pressing on the sides of the bulb, which now readily yield, owing to the absorption, for the support of the advancing flowers, first taking place in the part immediately under that on which the sheath presses. At that the exhausting process is immediately recognized by the spongy appearance surrounding each indentation, when the bulb is transversely divided. Having made these preliminary inquiries, Mr. Thomson obtained nine specimens of dried bulbs of the meadow saffron for his experiments. Five out of the nine proved to be very bad—three middling, and only one very good. One of the bad specimens was procured at Apothecaries' Hall!!

Mr. Thomson's method of ascertaining the goodness of the root being detailed in his first experiment, we shall give it in his own words:

"Ten grains of the bulb of meadow saffron, which was dug up on the 25th of July, and dried in transverse slices, less than one-eighth of an inch in thickness, *without heat*, were rubbed in a mortar with sixteen minims of distilled vinegar; and, immediately afterwards, with sixteen minims of an alcoholic solution of guaiac; a most beautiful cœrulean blue was almost directly evolved, and remained permanent until the following day, when the mortar was cleaned.

"The specimen subjected to this experiment was dug up by myself, and in drying it the slices were simply spread out, each slice separate from another, on a sheet of clean white paper, placed in an airy situation, excluded from the sun. The dried slices were very little shrunk, of a cream white colour, opaque, and somewhat glandular on both surfaces; perfectly friable, devoid of odour, and bitter to the taste, without the least trace of sweetness. Three grains of the powder produced some degree of nausea, purged moderately, and diminished both the quickness and strength of the pulse. It was therefore marked No. I. and regarded as the criterion for determining the quality of the other specimens.

"I ought to mention, that in all the experiments with the dried bulb, the powder was first rubbed with distilled vinegar; because I had ascertained that in dry amylaceous powders containing gluten, this principle is in a state which prevents it from being readily acted on by the guaiac, unless it be previously dissolved; and as acetic acid is the best solvent of gluten, distilled vinegar was employed for that purpose. Distilled vinegar, when added alone to the alcoholic solution of guaiac, merely precipitates the guaiac unaltered; consequently the change of colour cannot in any degree be ascribed to that agent; and the same colour is evolved, if the powder of the root be well rubbed with the solution alone, although it is by no means so quickly produced."

With respect to Mr. Battley's method of drying the root, noticed in a late number of this work, Mr. Thomson observes, "I am of opinion that the temperature of one hundred and seventy to one hundred and eighty degrees, to which he exposes it, is even too high; and that, although the gluten be not entirely destroyed, yet it is partially so, which accounts for the blue colour being longer of

appearing, and for the almond taste it impresses when chewed; and if my inference be correct, that all the components should be in a state nearly the same as before the bulb is dried, to secure the full medicinal quality of the drug, it is evident, that as even so low a temperature as one hundred and seventy degrees, is, in some degree, destructive of the balance of the components which is maintained in the recent meadow saffron, it should not be employed. In every other respect, this specimen was excellent, and approached nearer to the quality of the best, than any of the other specimens."

From these experiments, and the prefatory observations, Mr. Thomson concludes,—

1. "That the diversity of opinions held by practitioners, at the present time, regarding the medicinal powers of the bulb of meadow saffron, proceed from the different conditions in which it is found in shops, and in which it is consequently administered.

"2. That the month of July is the best period for taking up the plant, as the bulb has then attained its full growth and perfection; whilst the vegetation of the gems or lateral progeny, for the support of which the bulb is intended, has scarcely commenced.

"3. That the bulb, when taken up, should, as soon as possible, be cut, as Mr. Battley directs, into transverse slices, equal in thickness to half a crown; and these being spread out upon clean white paper, should be dried *without artificial heat*, in an airy situation, screened from sunshine.

"4. That the slices, when dried, should be nearly oval, but not notched nor panduriform, friable, of a white or cream-colour, somewhat granular on both surfaces, inodorous, bitter to the taste, and altogether free from sweetness; and should afford a fine cœrulean blue colour, when rubbed with a few drops of vinegar, and the alcoholic solution of guaiac.

"5. That practitioners, who compound their own prescriptions, should purchase the drug in the sliced state, and test it in the manner above described, before employing it.

"6. That a physician, in prescribing the remedy, should endeavour to ascertain in what condition it is kept in the shop of the druggist who is to compound his prescription; and that the Royal College of Physicians should notify to the Apothecaries' Company, that, owing to the condition in which the dried meadow saffron is now sold in their Hall, it is not capable of effecting the object for which it is prescribed."

The presence of gluten is certainly a proof of the dried root not having been deteriorated by age; but because it is absent we are not to conclude that the root has lost its medicinal virtues, for that principle possess none. Where it is destroyed by heat, we can not see any just reason for Mr. Thomson's "*natural inference*" that changes must *necessarily* take place in *all* the components of the root. When the root, cut as directed by Battley, is dried "without heat," it soon becomes sweet, and by this process the medicinal properties of the root are much more likely to suffer, than by the destruction of a part which contains no medicinal virtue, because in it new combinations are formed. The plan, therefore, of drying

the root, as recommended by Mr. Battley, is, in our opinion, more judicious than that by Mr. Thomson. The leaves of plants, whose medicinal properties do not reside in a volatile principle, as the henbane, hemlock, &c. when dried according to Mr. Battley's plan, are much more powerful than when dried without heat. The medicinal virtues of the meadow saffron root chiefly reside in the cortical part, and this part contains no gluten. The diversity of opinions held by practitioners at the present time, regarding the medicinal powers of the bulb of the meadow saffron, does not, in our opinion, arise so much from the *state* of the bulb, or the manner in which it was dried, as the injudicious exhibition of it. On different subjects it has very different effects. On some, the dose of a few grains of the powder, or a tea-spoonful of the saturated wine, acts violently, producing vomiting and violent purging; whilst on others, afflicted with the same disease, it has no effect. Two days prior to the use of this remedy, the stomach and intestines should be emptied by a dose of rhubarb and calomel. It is always proper to commence with a small dose, and to increase it gradually till it produces a very slight degree of nausea. It should always be administered with an aromatic, as the peppermint water, or camphorated julep; to which, if the patient be subject to acidity in the stomach, or to gravel, or if the urine deposits a reddish sediment, from five to ten grains of the carbonate of soda may be added. In subjects far advanced in life, or of languid constitutions, the addition of a more powerful stimulant than peppermint water, or camphorated julep, will be necessary, and also a tonic. The best preparation of the meadow saffron root is the wine. [See Gout, Rheumatism, and Asthma, in the present number.] The article sold in France, under the name of "Eau Medicinale," is certainly not the wine of the root of the meadow saffron. We find it to contain the colouring matter, &c. of green leaves. From the experiments made with the saturated infusion of the fox-glove, in white wine, by a priest on himself, who had long been in the habit of taking the Eau Medicinale, we are satisfied that it is a vinous infusion of the dried leaves of the fox-glove.

MELANCHOLY.—For the following case of melancholy, or rather incipient insanity, we are indebted to Dr. Burrows, an able physician of London, who has paid particular attention to diseases of the mind.

"Miss C. was a very respectable woman, aged forty, of a leucophlegmatic temperament, grey eyes, dark brown hair, and very corpulent. Her disposition was equable, though rather melancholic. She had for several years conducted a prosperous business, but her occupation was sedentary, and admitted of little variety.

"In the spring of 1817 she became very dyspeptic, nervous, and fanciful. She was unhappy, without any real moral cause. But a short time before, a female acquaintance, in lifting a heavy basket, had experienced an umbilical hernia, for the cure of which she had submitted to an operation. This incident produced such a deep impression on Miss C.'s mind, that she at length insisted she also was afflicted with hernia, and must undergo a similar operation. No

reasoning could convince her that her apprehension was groundless. This hallucination obtained too firm a hold to be shaken off, and it made her truly miserable. Although the predominant, yet this was not the only mental illusion. She grew generally gloomy and suspicious, and had a strong dread of approaching poverty.

"Early in June she was so low spirited and morose, that her friends were alarmed, and consulted her medical attendant, Mr. Hunter, sen. of Mincing lane. That gentleman prescribed a judicious plan to be pursued in respect to her, but she was refractory, and rejected his advice; and her friends, unfortunately, did not enforce it.

"On the 11th she contrived to squeeze herself through a small stair-window, apparently of dimensions inadequate to admit her passing, and from which there was a perpendicular descent, of about thirty feet, to the pavement of a court behind her dwelling. Luckily, and unknown to Miss C., some empty beer barrels had been piled up immediately under this window; and upon these she fell. By the interposition of these barrels, the height was reduced. By these means, the suicide she meditated was prevented.

"She was taken up, apparently not much injured, and walked into her house. Messrs. Hunter, sen. and jun. came to her assistance. On examination, one of her legs was found to be considerably bruised. She complained of no other part.

"She was copiously bled, purged, and received such medical attention as her case required, and was very prudently placed under the supervision of a nurse accustomed to insane persons.

"Fever followed, without any abatement of her mental disorder."

On the 17th Dr. B. visited her. The countenance presented an extreme cast of despair and melancholy. There was considerable fever—pulse quick—tongue furred—bowels disposed to be inert.

The doctor employed the most active means to check inflammation in the injured parts. Mortification ensued, and a favourable separation of the dead parts took place.

About this period Miss C. began to loathe both nutriment and medicine; consequently, symptoms of debility appeared — her strength declined—all the secretions seemed to diminish, especially the quantity of urine—the legs were œdematous—the discharge from the wound was thin, glary, and very fœtid: in short, the healing process was suspended. The mental disorder was the same. But she yielded to persuasion, and resumed the bark, with the addition of diluted sulphuric acid, and a pill at bed-time, with submuriate of mercury, (calomel,) and squills; friction was used to the legs, and the wound was washed with dilute nitric acid. She ate also more solid food, and drank porter. He likewise recommended her removal, as soon as possible, to a purer air; from which he hoped not only an improvement in her constitution, but that those depressing ideas, associated with every thing around her, in the scene of her late desperate attempt, would be diverted; and thus that advantage be obtained, which almost uniformly attends a change of situation in cases of melancholia. This step, however, the condition of her wound had hitherto precluded them from suggesting.

"In about a week there was a sensible amendment in her health,

and, of course, in the appearance of the wound; and at this juncture (July 26th) she was removed to a friend's house, near the Commercial-road. The situation was far from desirable. Her chamber was close and cheerless. Besides, her relations were about her—an arrangement rarely conducive of good in the treatment of such cases.

"Still it was an entire change, and, at any rate, preferable to her remaining at home.

"A lighter tonic was now substituted for the bark; but as the kidneys were still indolent, and the legs œdematous, the calomel and squills were continued.

"She now mended every day in health, and was very tractable; but all her pristine mental aberrations prevailed.

"After persevering in this plan a fortnight, she caught cold by falling asleep with the window open; the consequence was salivation, but not excessive. It was suffered to take its course.

"Concurrent with this ptyalism, was an amelioration of the mental disorder. She grew more cheerful, and every aberration, by degrees, vanished. Three weeks from the appearance of the salivation she was so well, that I took my leave.

"Soon after, she was capable of going by water to Margate. There her constitution much improved. The wound, however, was several months before it healed; and then the injury had been so extensive, that the muscular action of the limb was greatly obstructed, so that, to the present, she is lame.

"To complete the history of this case, Miss C. afterwards married, became pregnant, endured a very tedious and difficult labour, and was delivered, by art, of a dead child. But neither the joys, nor the hopes, nor the pains, nor the disappointments of the marriage state, have deranged the equanimity of her intellectual faculties."

On this case Dr. Burrows makes the following judicious observations:—

"There are several peculiarities in the above case not unworthy of notice. But my principal motive in publishing it, is the fact, that sanity here supervened to accidental mercurial salivation. I saw a similar result in two other cases of insanity, which were nearly contemporaneous with this. One I attended with Mr. Upton, of Throgmorton-street; the other with Mr. Lincoln, of Hatton Garden. In both a perfect restoration of the intellects followed; but from the neglect of proper precautions by the relations, the latter, an elderly lady, soon relapsed, and she died insane and paralytic, about a year afterwards.

"An inference might be deduced from the event of these cases, that the occurrence of salivation is a natural solution of insanity, and that we have only to superinduce it, to re-establish the integrity of the understanding. But such a conclusion would be attended with that disappointment which almost always ensues from *generalizing* on the cure of particular diseases on the authority of a few detached cases. Yet the facts disclosed are indications of sufficient importance to lead to a serious consideration in what degree the exhibition of mercury in the treatment of insanity may be useful.

"Were ptyalism a natural solution of mental derangement, recoveries would probably be much more frequent; for no symptom is more common in maniacs, than a spontaneous and abundant flow of saliva. But I have never met with an instance where this has proved critical. Such cases, nevertheless, are on record; though none of them, I think, are detailed with sufficient clearness to decide, whether the recovery was really consequent on this phenomenon. In the case of melancholia alleged to have been determined by spontaneous salivation, of which an abstract is given in the Fifth Number of the Journal of Foreign Medicine and Surgery, a particular exudation from the mammæ was observed, which might also be deemed a critical discharge; and there were several precursory signs of convalescence.

"Every species of insanity, not arising from mal-formation or organic lesion, may be cured spontaneously. Such a termination often happens, and surprises us. I will not assert that the maniacal action never ceased in consequence of spontaneous salivation; but I am strongly inclined to suspect, that the cases reported to have recovered in this manner, are rather coincidences, and not the specific effect of the increased salivary secretion.

"Hitherto I have viewed this efflux of saliva as purely symptomatic, and occasioned by irritation from local determination to the salivary glands, because local determinations, in maniacal persons, are usual; and whenever an increased flow of saliva appears, it is rather on the access or during the paroxysm, than on the decline of it.

"The physical phenomena exhibited in insanity, indicate, generally, a marked derangement of the vascular as well as of the nervous system. There is the plainest evidence, sometimes of increased, sometimes of decreased, arterial action; and when the equilibrium of the circulation is disturbed, the sensorium sympathizes, and the functions of the intellectual organs are often implicated.

"Mercury, by its acknowledged power of equalizing the circulation, may restore the balance between the vascular and nervous systems, and thereby remove that morbid condition of the brain, which, perhaps, originates intellectual derangement. The theory of the operation of mercury on the system, therefore, favours the presumption, that salivation induced by it, may terminate insanity, while no such expectation could be formed from spontaneous salivation.

"Analogy, too, supports this inference. The excitement from mercurial action very closely resembles febrile excitation; and those conversant with insanity know, that a smart attack of fever, from whatever cause, often effects a perfect cure of the mental disorder.

"But let not the facts I have detailed, and still less the speculations in which I have indulged, sway any one rashly to employ mercury in the cure of insanity. I propose, by these observations, to draw a greater degree of attention to the exhibition of a remedy in a malady so obnoxious to medicine, not to urge the practice without more experience. The rage for prescribing this mineral, as

a pannacea in almost all diseases, has already tempted many to try it, and pretty indiscriminately in maniacal cases. However, we may fairly infer that the success of it has been equivocal; otherwise we should have heard more respecting its virtues.

"After the caution I have given, it will be but candid to state my own observations on the effects of mercury as a remedy in cases of insanity. I shall briefly remark, that I have repeatedly given it as an alterative, where the functions of the chylopoietic viscera were faulty, and, I conceive, with great advantage; but then it was always in conjunction with other pharmaceutical remedies, and it was impossible to decide to which to assign the benefit."

The result of the above detailed case, and the two others alluded to, convinced the doctor that there were certain maniacal conditions in which the efficacy of mercury was indisputable. He has accordingly made trial of it in various forms of this malady, but he confesses his first essays disappointed him. Nevertheless, he persevered; judging that his failure proceeded from want of due discrimination, and that the cases he had selected were not appropriate ones.

He soon found that where there was great excitement manifested, such as a white tongue, flushed face, with prominent and vivid, or blood-shot eyes, and a hurried pulse, or much throbbing of the carotid or temporal arteries, in whatever quantity or whatever manner mercury was exhibited, he never succeeded in eliciting salivation; on the contrary, *generally all the symptoms of excitement were aggravated.* The only instance he has seen where the system, under great excitement, was affected to salivation by mercury, was that of a patient of Mr. Upton's; and the effect here was by a mode very unexpected, and, perhaps, unusual. She had received a casual cut on her lip. He prescribed some calomel in a pill, which she chewed and spit out. The calomel was then mixed with a little sugar. In putting this powder into her mouth, some of it was sprinkled, inadvertently, upon the recent cut. The powder was followed by a common laxative draught, which operated well. Two days after a copious salivation was established. Whenever he has succeeded in producing mercurial salivation, it has been in cases of melancholia, in which there has been *no remission* of the paroxysm, or, at least, at very distant periods. But, including the three cases referred to in this paper, sanity has followed four times only in nine cases, where mercurial salivation has been accomplished. His experience, therefore, of artificial salivation in intellectual disorders, is still much too limited to speak confidently of its success. Yet enough, perhaps, is ascertained to encourage a more extended trial of it; and this, he states, he shall not omit when opportunity offers.

GALVANISM.—We have been favoured by Mr. La Beaume with the following cases of his application of galvanism in the cure of diseases, which, evincing, as they do, the medical efficacy of that powerful agent, we communicate for the information of our readers.

Case 1st.—A middle-aged married lady stated to me, that she had for a period of twelve years, without the exception of a single day, uniformly, for some hours in the course of every day, suffered severely from a dull heavy pain in the right side of the body, in the

region of the liver, which continued to harass her, notwithstanding all the medical means she had for years employed, under the direction of the ablest physicians in the metropolis. This peculiar ailment was attended with habitual constipation. Her appearance was healthy; neither the pulse nor tongue indicated any material derangement of the system. The opinion of the highest medical authorities was, that a part of her liver was enlarged and indurated, though she had not previously had any acute inflammation of that organ. Whether disordered action of the liver, or a structural derangement, existed, it is impossible to say; but the fact was, that ten applications of galvanism removed the pain from the side, and gave a new action to the diseased parts: the liver then freely performed its functions, the bowels acted with perfect regularity, which superseded the use of any aperient medicines whatever, and the patient, of whom I have heard on the 20th instant, has ever since continued to be free from the disorder, and enjoys an uninterrupted state of good health.

Case 2d.—A young lady, of a plethoric habit, residing in Great Russell-street, Bloomsbury, had for a period of four years suffered greatly from a disordered state of the liver; her digestion was ill performed—her bowels occasionally very lax, at other times very costive—sometimes the chronic inflammation of the liver assumed an acute character, and at other times the biliary secretion was defective or vitiated, as appeared from the discharges of the bowels. Various acute flying pains in different parts of the body afflicted the patient; the tongue was highly furred, the pulse quick and irritable. She felt an extreme soreness in the region of the stomach and liver, and had repeatedly experienced violent spasmodic attacks from obstruction of bile. In the first instance I directed the application of leeches to the parts affected, which afforded considerable relief. I then employed the galvanism from the 3d to the 11th of May, 1819, in all seven operations, which not only removed every sore and tender feeling in those parts, but restored the action of the liver; the constipation was removed, and every painful and uneasy feeling immediately subsided. The patient, whom I have lately seen, informed me, that she has continued to enjoy perfect freedom from her complaint, and that her health was exceedingly good.

Case 3d.—Mr. Robert Little, Wine and Brandy Merchant, now residing at Somerset-place Commercial-road, became my patient on the 13th day of May, 1818. He stated, that in the year 1811, being then forty years of age, he began to feel many disagreeable symptoms of indigestion. His disease soon after rapidly increased, and his stomach became constantly oppressed with acidity, flatulence, sour belching, and hiccup, accompanied also with violent pains in the right shoulder and side, breast, and spine, and a variety of other distressing feelings, which he could not easily describe; shortly after he was suddenly attacked by a palsy of the right side. In this state he called in medical aid, and a judicious active treatment relieved the paralysis; but all the subsequent means to restore the *tone* of the digestive organs, failed of success. Mr. Little then consulted several of the most eminent physicians, who unanimously pronounced his case to be a liver disease, and put him on repeated

courses of mercurials, in various forms, which only produced an aggravation of his stomach complaint, and an extreme irritation of his nervous system. Having continued for some time in this precarious state of health, and despairing of a cure by the remedies in common use, he consulted me on the applicability of galvanism to his case. When I first saw him he appeared extremely sallow. He complained of indigestion, habitual costiveness, pains in the region of the liver and kidneys, and other symptoms attendant on dyspepsia and chronic hepatitis. Judging that galvanism would prove beneficial, I commenced its application on the 18th of May, 1818, and continued it regularly for seventeen days, with the occasional use of a little rhubarb and magnesia; and at the expiration of that time I dismissed the patient, when I found his appetite was fully regained, his stomach free from disordered feelings, the liver performing its office, the bowels being quite regular, all pain removed, and every ailment eradicated. I have repeatedly seen him since, and last, on the 16th instant, when he assured me, that from the time he had desisted from the galvanism, he has had no return whatever of his complaints; but, on the contrary, that he had acquired a higher degree of health and spirits than he had ever before enjoyed. Thus, after a lapse of more than *two years*, this patient bears testimony to the *permanence* of the benefit he has derived from the treatment I had adopted, and declares, that after having had recourse to other medical advice of the best description, during the long period of *seven years of severe indisposition*, without obtaining any decided relief, he was restored to perfect health, by the remedies I had administered, in the course of *seventeen days*, within which time he had only *thirteen* applications of galvanism.

Case 4th.—Mr. G. Jackson, New Bond-street, applied to me on the 24th day of November, 1818. He stated that he had from his infancy been extremely delicate, and from the age of thirteen years had several attacks of pulmonary disease, disordered respiration, and bloody and pus-like expectoration; and that his complaint had been pronounced to be consumptive. He had also suffered extremely from a bad state of the digestive organs, and spasmodic breathing. His appetite was lost—his stomach greatly oppressed by acidity and flatulence—his bowels always confined—the urine turbid or pale—perspiration profuse or checked—pains of an acute nature in the head, chest, and different parts of the body. The senses became impaired, deafness and defective vision ensued, and an *extreme* debility was the result of a high degree of derangement of the vital organs—his pulse was very feeble—tongue foul—countenance pale—and his body much emaciated. In this case also I employed the galvanism with *decided* and *permanent* benefit.

The recovery was gradual, but the progressive amendment was highly satisfactory. In the course of a few months the patient was restored to the enjoyment of a higher degree of health, strength, and vigour, both of mind and body, than he had ever before experienced. The progress of recovery was clearly marked by an amelioration of the alvine secretions and urine, improved perspiration and general warmth, greater freedom of breathing and expectoration, increase of

nervous, *corporeal* and *sensorial* power; the sight became stronger, the hearing regained, and the *mind* invigorated, and rendered capable of greater exertions. The benefit the patient derived from the course he had pursued was *permanent*. He has frequently called on me to report the excellent state of health he has continued to enjoy, and he presented me with a long well-written statement of his case, which he requested me to publish; but which I deferred doing till now, in order that I might have it in my power to vouch for the *permanency* of the good effects of the treatment I had employed to subdue such a *complication* of *disorders*.

Southampton Row, Russell-square, M. LA BEAUME.
October 12th, 1820.

GOUT AND RHEUMATISM.—The wine of the seeds of the meadow saffron, so highly recommended by Dr. Williams, of Ipswich, for rheumatism, is at least likely to have a fair trial, the demand for it having been very considerable. We have met with several cases of acute gout and inflammatory rheumatism, in which it proved very beneficial. One gentleman, who had been confined to his bed many days with rheumatic gout, was able to walk, with perfect ease, twenty-four hours after taking a tea-spoonful of the wine. It operated gently on the bowels, but did not disorder the stomach. His testimony certainly confirms the report of Dr. Williams—of its acting like a charm. He took it at eleven o'clock at night, in a little peppermint water, with a tea-spoonful of pure magnesia. The leading physicians of the metropolis are giving it a trial, and from their continuing to prescribe it, we may fairly infer they are pleased with its effects. In cases of chronic rheumatism and chronic gout, in elderly subjects, the wine of the seed has proved a very valuable addition to the volatile tincture of guaiac gum, in the following proportion:

Take of Volatile Tincture of Guaiac Gum, six drachms;
Honey, two drachms;
Camphorated Mixture, seven ounces;
Wine of the Seeds of the Meadow Saffron, half an ounce.

Blend the honey and volatile tincture well together in a glass mortar, and then add, by degrees, the camphorated mixture and wine. The dose of this mixture is from two to three table-spoonsful two or three times a day.

In cases of rheumatism of long standing, a topical application will also be necessary; and even when the disease is apparently cured by the meadow saffron, it will also prove beneficial in restoring the parts to health, and thereby prevent a recurrence on leaving off the constitutional remedy, For these purposes, the best composition is the cajeput liniment, noticed in a former number.

SCALD HEAD, RINGWORM, &c. — SIRS,—Through the medium of your very valuable publication, I beg leave to recommend to my professional brethren, and the public, the following ointment for scald head, ringworm, and tetters, which I have uniformly found to succeed in speedily effecting a cure:—

Take of Sub-acetate of Copper (in very fine powder), half a drachm;
Prepared Calomel, one drachm;
Fresh Spermaceti Ointment, one ounce.

Mix well together. To be rubbed over the parts affected every night and morning. I have also found this ointment very efficacious in cases of foul and languid ulcers. The insertion of this communication in your very useful journal, will encourage me to become a regular correspondent. I am, Sirs, your very obedient Servant,

Liverpool, JAMES JONES,
October 4th, 1820. Member of the College of Surgeons.

ASTHMA, WINTER COUGH.—The seeds of the meadow saffron have proved more beneficial in asthma, and winter or irritative cough, than in any other disease. The purified ligneous acid, impregnated with the virtues of the seeds, and formed into a thin syrup with sugar or honey, in the dose of a dessert-spoonful, very speedily terminates the most violent paroxysm of asthma; and, by bringing on a free expectoration, soon removes every asthmatic sensation. When taken in the day-time, it effectually keeps off the evening exacerbation or paroxysm. In cases of winter or irritative cough, which arises from morbid irritation, or increased excitement of the nerves of the bronchial ramifications, and a certain state of the atmosphere, it is also a very valuable remedy. The phenomena of asthma arise from increased excitement of the branches of the eighth pair of nerves, distributed over the larynx, and the internal membrane of the windpipe and bronchia, brought on by a certain condition of the atmosphere, probably with respect to electric matter; for opposite states of the air, with respect to temperature, density, or humidity, do not disorder asthmatics, so much as easterly or north-easterly winds. In consequence of the increased excitement of the nerves of the larynx, &c. the muscles concerned in respiration, particularly those engaged in expiration, are spasmodically affected, to prevent the free admission of the irritating air into the lungs. This is elucidated by the violent spasmodic paroxysm, similar to that of asthma, which immediately follows an artificial irritation of the membrane of the larynx. The suffocating sensation produced by a morsel of food lodging in the membrane during swallowing, generally attributed by the ignorant to the food going the "wrong way," is of this nature. The expiratory muscles immediately contract to prevent the admission of an obnoxious article into the windpipe, and this state of muscles will sometimes continue many minutes; and in asthmatics, whose nerves of the parts are morbidly irritable, it has continued for many hours.

The meadow saffron more speedily and more permanently allays morbid irritation, or increased excitement of nerves of the larynx, windpipe, and lungs, than any other remedy, except the prussic acid; which, in consequence of its potency, should not be employed without the advice and daily attendance of an experienced practitioner. The only difference between winter cough and asthma is, the seat of irritation of the former is in the membrane lining the bronchial ramifications; whilst that of the latter is in the membrane of the larynx, and upper part of the windpipe. The varieties or different species of asthma depend on the age of the

patient, the state of the general health, and particularly of the blood-vessels of the chest. If the sanguiferous system be over-loaded, abstraction of blood will be necessary; for the return of blood from the head being considerably retarded, by the constricted state of the muscles of the chest during the asthmatic paroxysm, the functions of the brain are disturbed, and a state of the nervous system is in consequence produced, which favours the disease.

When the powers of the system are considerably reduced, a tonic remedy should accompany the use of the meadow saffron seeds, as the decoction of the Iceland moss, a wine-glassful of which may be taken with the ligneous acid syrup, two or three times a day. To this mixture two tea-spoonsful of the compound tincture of rhatany root, or Peruvian bark, may be added, if the legs are affected with œdematous swelling. We have termed the preparation of the meadow saffron seeds we recommend for asthma and winter cough, the "*Ligneous Syrup of the Meadow Saffron Seeds*," to distinguish it from the preparation sold by druggists, under the name of Oxymel of Meadow Saffron. The purified ligneous acid, we have found to prove more efficacious in preventing that fermentative process in the stomach, of which flatulence and acidity are the consequences, than any other medicine, either simple or compound; and to asthmatics this is of great importance.

In our first, fifth, and sixth numbers we have entered fully on the subject of diet, clothing, &c. of asthmatic invalids, under the heads of Asthma and Indigestion.

MOXA.—A Dr. Barde has lately communicated to the Society of *Practical* Medicine in Paris, a few cases of chronic inflammation of the eyes, lateral curvature of the spine, chronic cough, and rheumatism, in which moxa was employed with complete success. Moxa is a soft substance, made chiefly in Japan, from the young leaves of a species of mugwort, by beating them when thoroughly dried, and rubbing them between the hands till the fine fibres are only left. In the eastern countries, this article has long been employed for curing many diseases, by burning it on the skin, over or near the seat of the malady. Its effect on the skin does not differ from that of the actual cautery of the antients. After the eschar has separated, the discharge is kept up in manner of an issue. This remedy, which is now very fashionable in France, is considered a refinement on the actual cautery; and certainly, less terrific to the patient. The effect is exactly the same as that produced by a red-hot iron, the caustic alcali, or the burning of any inflammable article. French practitioners, however, attribute the cures that have followed the burning, to the moxa!! By some practitioners in Paris, gunpowder has been substituted for it. In the case of curvature of the spine, Dr. Barde applied the moxa "on the centre and convexity of the curvature." In two months the cure was completed. In the case of chronic inflammation of the eyes, the moxa was applied to each temple, and a seaton to the nape of the neck, by means of a hot iron. The disease had existed six years, during which time he had been in a state of darkness. At the end of twenty days it entirely subsided. For the chronic pulmonary catarrh, the moxa was applied

to each side of the chest: in a little time the patient was well. In the cases of rheumatism, the moxa was applied over the seat of the disease.

INDIGESTION, GLEET, AND FLUOR ALBUS.—We have received within the last three months, several communications from North America, Germany, and France, in favour of the tonic virtues of the rhatany root, particularly in cases of indigestion of elderly people, atonic gout, gleet, and fluor albus. In America the root is chiefly employed, but in Germany and France, a preference is given to the extract made in South America. Dr. Dalmant, a German physician of eminence, states that he has uniformly found the extract of the rhatany to prove more efficacious in the cure of diseases of direct debility, and to agree better with the stomach, than the Peruvian bark, or any other vegetable tonic. Of late, he says, he has not been able to procure good extract in Germany, and that that which he has received from England is of very inferior quality. This gentleman has favoured us with copies of the forms in which he had prescribed the extract of rhatany, for which he acknowledges himself to be indebted to the Treatise on the Rhatany Root, published in Madrid, by the celebrated Dr. Ruiz, physician to the King; a translation of which has been published in Germany, by an eminent chemist and apothecary of Wurtemburg. From this collection we select the following, on account of the articles being procurable in this country:

For Indigestion, Heartburn, Atonic Gout, &c.—Take of Extract of Rhatany Root (foreign,) three drachms; Sub-carbonate of Soda (dried), two scruples; Capsicum (fresh powder), a scruple; Tincture of Orange Peel, a sufficient quantity to form a mass. Divide into forty-eight pills. The dose, from two to four pills twice a day, with a glass of water.

In case the bowels are disposed to costiveness, the doctor recommends a drachm of the extract of rhubarb to be added to the above composition, and the dose to be increased.

For Fluor Albus and Gleet.—Take of the Balsam of Spruce, two drachms; Mucilage of Gum Arabic, an ounce; Extract of Rhatany Root, two drachms; Syrup of Orange Peel, half an ounce; Camphorated Julep, seven ounces. Rub the balsam with the mucilage, in a glass mortar; and when well blended, add by degrees the extract, dissolved in the camphorated julep and syrup. From two to three table-spoonsful to be taken three times a day. To this prescription the doctor adds the following observation:—"This composition has succeeded in cases of gleet and fluor albus, which had resisted the most judicious treatment of eminent practitioners."

The balsam of spruce has lately been imported into this country. It is a resinous juice, strongly flavoured with the odour of the spruce. In consistency and colour it resembles the balsam of Copaiba. The favourable accounts of the rhatany root, from our foreign correspondents, we declined to publish, on account of the impossibility of obtaining the foreign extract in this country. Within these few days, we find, a quantity has been imported, the quality of which is very fine.

ANIMAL POISONS.

(Continued from our last Number, page 676.)

Poisonous Fish.	*Symptoms.*	*Treatment.*
The Sea Lobster, &c.	In an hour or two, or often in a much shorter time, after stale fish have been eaten, a weight at the stomach comes on, with slight vertigo and head-ache, with a sense of heat about the head and eyes, considerable thirst, and often an eruption of the skin (ruticania) and in many cases, death has followed.	An emetic should be speedily administered; or, in the absence of it, the vomiting may be excited by tickling the throat with the finger, and taking large draughts of warm water. After full vomiting, an active purgative should be given, to remove any offending matter that may have escaped into the intestines. Vinegar and water may be drank after the above remedies have operated, and the body may be sponged with the same. Water, made very sweet with sugar, to which æther may be added, may be drank freely, as a corrective; and a very weak solution of alcali has been recommended, to obviate the effects of the poison. If spasm ensue, after evacuations, laudanum, in considerable doses, is necessary. If inflammation should occur, the usual means of removing it, must be employed.

We should condemn the use of either æther, or sugared water. The former is too stimulating, and the latter soon runs into the acetic fermentation in the stomach. After sufficient vomiting, a mucilaginous anodyne mixture should be administered, and in case of violent pain in the stomach and fever, bleeding and blistering may be necessary.

Poisonous Serpents.	*Symptoms.*	*Treatment.*
The Viper, Black Viper, &c.	A sharp pain in the wounded part, which soon extends over the limb, or body; great swelling, at first hard and pale, then reddish, livid, and gangrenous in appearance; faintings, vomitings, convulsions, and sometimes jaundice; pulse small, frequent, and irregular;—breathing difficult; cold sweats; the sight fails; and the intellectual faculties deranged. Inflammation, and often extensive suppuration and gangrene, followed by death.	A moderately tight ligature to be applied above the bites, and the wound left to bleed, after being well washed with warm water; the actual cautery, lunar caustic, or butter of antimony, to be then applied freely to it, and afterwards covered with lint dipped in equal parts of olive oil and spirit of hartshorn. The ligature to be removed if the inflammation be considerable. Warm diluting drinks, and small doses of ammonia, or hartshorn, to cause perspiration; to be well covered in bed, and a little warm wine to be given occasionally. If gangrene be threatened, wine may be given more freely, and the bark should be had recourse to. Arsenic, the principal ingredient in the Tanjore pill, has been strongly recommended.

Excision of the part, if practicable, is assuredly preferable to the actual cautery. The constitutional treatment must depend on the state of the body, with respect to plenitude of the blood-vessels, excitability of the nervous system, and appearance of the wounded part. The best specific is, no doubt, the pure ammonia.

Poisons.	*Symptoms.*	*Treatment.*
Poison of rabid dog, &c.	At an uncertain interval after the bite, generally however between the twentieth day and three or four months, pain or uneasiness occurs in the bitten part, though the wound may have been long healed. Anxiety, uneasiness, languor, spasms, horror, disturbed sleep, difficult respiration succeed, and are soon very much increased; violent convulsions affect the whole body, hideously distorting the muscles of the face; the eyes are red and protruded; the tongue swells, and often hangs out, and viscid saliva flows from the mouth; there is pain in the stomach, with bilious vomitings, a horror of fluids, and impossibility of drinking them. All these symptoms are aggravated, until the sufferer is relieved by death.	Hydrophobia is more easily prevented than cured; indeed it is doubtful if it ever has been cured. Mercury, arsenic, opium, musk, camphor, acids, wine, vegetable and mineral alkali, oil, various herbs, and many other remedies, whose effects are quite opposite, have been employed; but none can be relied on. Copious bleeding, the warm and cold bath, and almost every other remedy, have been tried without success. The bitten part should be completely cut out, as soon as possible, or even after it has healed, if the symptoms have not yet come on; the part should then be immersed in warm water, or washed with it, as long as it will bleed; and after the most persevering ablution, caustic should be applied to every part of the surface, and then the wound covered with a poultice, and suffered to heal.

If the wounded part has been properly removed by the knife, there can be no necessity of tormenting the patient with a caustic application. When hydrophobia has taken place, the only remedies worth a trial, are the prussic acid, and copious bleeding.

Poisons.	*Symptoms.*	*Treatment.*
Cantharides. Spanish, or Blistering Fly.	Nauseous odour of the breath, acrid taste; burning heat in the throat, stomach, and belly; frequent vomitings, often bloody, with copious bloody stools; excruciating pain in the stomach; pain and heat in the bladder; retention of urine; frightful convulsions; delirium, and death.	Vomiting to be excited by drinking sweet oil, sugar and water, *milk*, or linseed tea, very freely. Emollient glysters should be administered; and if symptoms of inflammation of the stomach, kidney, or bladder supervene, they must be subdued by appropriate treatment. Camphor, dissolved in oil, may be rubbed over the belly and thighs.

The quantity of the blistering fly taken into the stomach, must be very considerable, to produce the symptoms enumerated by the author. After the stomach has been properly emptied, by drinking freely of warm milk and water, an anodyne, in a solution of the gum tragacanth, or arabic, in almond emulsion, should be exhibited frequently. Bleeding will also be proper, in case of much pain or fever. The diet should consist of vegetable juices.

Venomous Insects.	*Symptoms.*	*Treatment.*
Hornet. Wasp. Bee. Gnat. Gad Fly.	In general the sting of these insects occasions only a slight degree of pain and swelling, but occasionally the symptoms are more violent, and sickness and fever are produced by the intensity of pain.	Hartshorn and oil may be rubbed on the affected part, and a piece of rag moistened in the same, or in salt and water, may be kept upon it, until the pain is removed. A few drops of hartshorn may be given frequently, in a little water, and a glass or two of wine may be taken.

YAWNING.—My Dear Sirs,—The spirited manner in which you have supported the dignity of the medical profession, has encouraged me to acquaint you with the extraordinary effects of yawning in terminating instantaneously a fit of asthma, for the benefit of those who may be subject to that most distressing affection. Suspecting, from a sense of constriction about the windpipe, which came on as I was walking up the Haymarket, that a fit of asthma, to which I am subject on very slight occasions, was coming on, I went to the reading room of Messrs. Burgess and Hill, in Great Windmill Street, with the intention of remaining there till it had run its course. To amuse my mind I took up a work which was lying on a table before me. It proved to be a "Quarterly Journal, edited by a *Dr. James Johnson*." After going through some pages, I was seized with a violent fit of yawning, which most effectually removed every asthmatic symptom. The great freedom of breathing, which so suddenly followed a sensation of suffocation, greatly astonished me; after a little reflection I was convinced that the happy result was the consequence of bringing into action, during yawning, the muscles which are opposed to those which are spasmodically affected in asthma. In this opinion I was confirmed, on recollecting the advice given by Mr. Abernethy, many years ago, in cases of cramp, to bring the antagonist muscles into action. On reopening the Journal to which I was indebted for this most important discovery, the first article which caught my eyes, was a letter from Dr. George Pearson, a licentiate of the London College of Physicians, to *Dr.* James Johnson, complimenting him for "his admirable exposition and *judicious pathology* of apoplexy." "Notwithstanding," says this *learned* Dr. Pearson, "the minute researches published by Dr. Abercrombie and *yourself*, unless *I have overlooked the record*, the important pathological fact, *the ossified condition* of the *cerebral* arteries, especially the carotids, has been omitted." This letter, with the knowledge I have of the writer and his learned friend, unfortunately excited an involuntary fit of laughter, that brought on a slight asthmatic paroxysm, which I certainly terminated by having recourse to yawning. To term the *carotids*, CEREBRAL arteries, is in the first place ridiculous, and the supposition that ossification of arteries of the brain is capable of producing apoplexy, is preposterous in the extreme. Apoplexy is the consequence of compression of brain, either from effusion of blood or over-distension of blood vessels. The size of an ossified artery is never increased to that degree as to compress the brain, so as to disturb its functions, and its power of dilatation being destroyed by it, the compression of brain is probably more diminished than increased by the change; at any rate the coats of the artery are so strengthened by the deposit of ossific matter, as effectually to prevent rupture, and, consequently, the species of apoplexy, which generally terminates fatally, viz. from effusion of blood. It is common to find ossification of arteries within the skull of *elderly* people, who died of apoplexy; but it is equally as common to find this state of arteries of the brain in *elderly* people who have died of other diseases, particularly of asthma.

The case is, that this change in the coats of arteries is the effect of age, and has nothing more to do with apoplexy than the loss of teeth. Besides, the blood which is effused in cases of apoplexy, is *venous* and not *arterial* blood, and when it is produced by distension of vessels, it is of veins or sinuses, and not of arteries. These facts, I presume, the learned Dr. Pearson will not deny, if the reflecting organ of his brain be free from ossified arteries. I have read all that has appeared from the pens of Dr. Abercrombie and *Dr.* Johnson, on apoplexy (for which you will give me credit for possessing an unusual share of patience), without being able to discover any thing like a new idea; and as Dr. Pearson has thought proper to compliment those writers on the light they have thrown on the *pathology* of the disease, I shall be greatly obliged to him or any other person, to point out the information which is not to be found in the works of the moderns. *Doctor* Johnson, in a note to Dr. Pearson's letter, observes, that ossification of arteries was noticed by him among the *exciting causes* of apoplexy!! What a curious idea of exciting causes of disease! Supposing that ossification of arteries (a disease which advances very slowly), was capable of producing apoplexy, how can it operate as the *exciting* cause? Now the meaning of all this is, that Dr. George Pearson is a candidate for a fellowship in the College of Physicians, and *Dr.* James Johnson has matriculated at Paris, in order to qualify himself to become a candidate for a college licence. The members of the college, must therefore be complimented. Here I must stop, with a promise to send for your next number, some very interesting, or rather amusing, intelligence from Paris, with an analytical exposé of the Quarterly Journal, its editor, the advertised list of subscribers, &c. The system of literary quackery, puffing, book-making, new modes of getting subscribers, and obtaining panegyrical reviews, which I shall fully expose, has been too successfully carried on in this country for many years, to the great injury of the medical profession.

I am, *my dear Sirs*,

Your very obedient servant,

JEMMY TISSUE EGO, M. D.

Author of a Treatise on Atmospheric Phenomena, and many other scientific works, Member of several learned Societies, late Surgeon of a Guinea slave ship, &c. &c. &c.

Humbug House, Spring Gardens.

P. S. I hope the asthmatics who may give Yawning a trial, will favour me, through the medium of your excellent work, with its effects. I assure them, that I have found it exceedingly beneficial; but I am, as all asthmatics are, an *Idiosyncrasist*, and therefore, what agrees with me, may disagree with another. A "certain great personage," I am credibly informed, requires to be *read* to sleep every night, and such is the peculiarity of his nervous system, that only one person can do it effectually,—viz. Sir W. Kn———n, Bart. M. D. For this purpose he attends at the bed-side of his patient every night, and so successful has he been, that he is denominated the Royal "*Nightmare.*"

IRREGULAR QUACKERY EXTRAORDINARY.—Sirs,—Should you deem the following case, illustrative of the pernicious effects of mercury in scrofula, worthy a place in your valuable miscellany, you will oblige me by inserting it.

A poor woman, servant to a whiting manufacturer, on the Surry side of Blackfriars bridge, in consequence of taking cold, became afflicted with a slight enlargement of the glands of the neck, for the cure of which she was induced to apply to a quack of the name of Spilsbury, who put her under a course of his *(Spilsbury's)* Anti-scorbutic Drops, the composition (mercury) and virtues of which you have given in your 13th Number, page 407, vol. 2. She continued taking this potent medicine for several weeks; but, as might be expected, it aggravated the complaint, the swelling continued to increase, and rapidly advanced to suppuration and ulceration. She was then advised by a neighbour to apply to a Dr. B. who gives advice *gratis!* and I should not be at all surprised if this Dr. B. is the same gentleman to whom you allude in your last number, under the head of "*Irregular Quackery Extraordinary;*" for he too must be something like a *blackberry*, as it appears that he can scratch if he cannot heal, and does not live many miles from Blackfriars Bridge. After the usual parade of procuring a letter of recommendation from a housekeeper, to gain admittance to such a stock of profound knowledge, she submitted her case to the learned doctor's consideration. On stating that she had been some time under the care of *Doctor* Spilsbury, Dr. B. rose from his seat, placed his two hands on his sides, and with his eyes ready to start from his head with rage, began to exclaim most unmercifully against the treatment which had been pursued by his *learned cotemporary*. The disorder, he asserted, had been trifled with, the medicine was too inert; it was a mere chip in porridge, and the disease had in consequence risen to a most dangerous pitch, and nothing but the most *powerful* treatment could then eradicate it from the system; desperate diseases, continued he, require desperate remedies; but he should notwithstanding be able to make a different woman of her in a short time! After an audience of an hour (in the interim of the application of other patients), and a long interrogation respecting her master's and his neighbours' affairs, he presented her with a prescription, directing mercury to be used most liberally, internally and externally! This prescription he directed to be taken to a certain chymist, and in return for the kindness of the doctor's recommendation, the chymist charged most liberally for the medicines. She persevered very assiduously in these remedies, the doctor on every application either prescribing an increased quantity, or writing *pergo* (that is, she may continue) on the back of the prescription; so that *pergo* was written no less than a dozen times on the back of one prescription!! The poor woman, however, soon found herself in *purgatory;* for the disease increased so rapidly under this treatment, that instead of one, she had soon five large ulcers in the neck. She also became salivated to such an extent, that all her teeth dropped out of her mouth, her head and throat swelled to a violent degree, and her mouth became so sore, that the only sustenance she could

take, was a little pulp of roasted apple. Neither the increase of the disease, nor the occurrence of these violent symptoms, induced the doctor to discontinue the deleterious course, or to diminish the quantity of mercury. *Pergo* was as much the order of the day with the doctor, as *non mi ricordo* was with *Majochi*. These effects the learned doctor assured her were not only absolutely necessary, but they must be kept up for a considerable length of time, to eradicate the scrofulous taint! She continued this treatment for upwards of four months, the complaint continuing to grow worse, till her strength was so exhausted, that she was compelled to leave her situation. Her money being all expended in medicines, she was obliged to return into the country to her friends, who placed her under the care of a surgeon. This gentleman justly deprecated, in strong terms, the treatment which had been adopted (for what man of skill would not?), and by substituting a more scientific plan, the wounds soon put on a favourable aspect, and healed up; and in less than a month she was restored to perfect health. I had almost forgotten to mention, that on account of the high charges made for the medicines by the chymist, to whom Dr. B. had sent her, she was induced to apply to another, who charged exactly one quarter the sum for the very same medicine!!! On further inquiry, however, this circumstance was accounted for. The doctor and the chymist, she discovered, divided the profits of the prescription money weekly!!! So much for advice *gratis!!!* and so much for the value of it; *and of impositions under the cloak of religion.*

To enter fully into the nature and treatment of scrofula, would exceed the limits of this communication; but so far I beg to observe, that mercury in large quantities, or long continued, seldom fails to aggravate scrofulous affections: that it should do so is most natural; for what is the remote cause of scrofula but debility of the arterial and glandular system? And do not mercurial courses of this kind frequently produce such a state? Hence scrofulous affections are very frequently excited by the excessive use of mercury, when no scrofulous symptoms whatever before existed. If, therefore, the treatment of DOCTOR SPILSBURY was reprehensible, how *much more so* was that of the humane and religious Dr. B—— ?

I remain, Sirs,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

Spring Gardens, Sept. 16, 1820. CHIRURGUS.

The connexion between physicians and druggists, which our correspondent exposes, is so common in London, that whenever a physician recommends a patient to get his prescription compounded at a particular shop, he may rest assured that he has an interested motive for so doing. We know a physician of great practice in London, who, although he receives the customary fee, has an engagement with a chymist (such he styles himself), to receive fifty per cent. on all the prescriptions he sends to his shop; and such is his thirst for lucre, that he keeps an account of all he recommends to him. He accordingly orders medicines in the most expensive forms. The *chymist* also sends him a haunch of venison every two or three

months, for the high terms in which he speaks of his drugs, and accuracy in compounding prescriptions!

EDUCATION OF YOUTH.—The foundation of a sound constitution being laid during the period of life, which is generally spent at school, the subject of education, so far as it affects the health either of the mind or body, is highly interesting, and we conceive very proper for this work. From the numerous communications we have received on this subject, we select the following:

GENTLEMEN,—It was not my intention to trouble you again on the fool's cap punishment, had not another lady rendered herself conspicuous in the same fool's cap degradation; yet though Eliza J—— sympathizes from a fellow feeling, from having been frequently placed in the same degrading situation, which possibly may account for her peculiar antipathy, I am conscientiously obliged to differ from her, because I have repeatedly seen the good effect of the *fool's cap* system, when judiciously applied; but in some ladies' schools, the *fool's cap* is popped on a pupil's head for any trifle; or the frock turned, the pin-a-fore tied before, the face disfigured, a rope tied round the waist or leg, dunce, slut, idle, inattentive, lazy, *la paresseuse*, &c. written on the cap or back: and once I saw a girl under punishment, covered with pieces of paper, taken from her copy book, in the same manner that a chimney sweeper is covered with variegated patches on May day, with many other ridiculous decorations, or degradations, which you please. And what was the effect produced? That of blunting a child's abilities? No: of destroying a child's health? No: of enervating the energies of her mind? No: of rendering the child stupid, making the child an idiot, or rendering her careless? *non, non, non, par tous les diables que non*, as says Moliere. What then was the result of all this bedecking and bedizening? Why, truly, that of rendering the schoolmistress or teacher *ridiculous*, the *but* and *laughing stock* of the whole school, instead of the pupil; for no sooner did the governess quit the study, than the decorated pupil assumed her air, language, deportment, and place, which generally gave rise to merriment, and bursts of laughter. Of this I have been an eye-witness more than once. I recollect going into the seminary of Miss Sh——d in Surrey, where a young lady, Miss Stone, of about fifteen years of age, was tied to a desk, by a long thick rope, for not recollecting that the star Aldebaran, was in the head of *Taurus*, after having twice been shown the constellation in the zodiac: this punishment was to continue during the whole day; and so sensibly did the girl feel the degradation, that she considered herself metamorphosed into the bull in question, and began butting and tossing every young lady that approached within the range of her rope; under this dreadful infuriated delusion she continued, till the return of her governess, who goaded her on the head with her thimble, to recover her lost senses.

On another occasion I saw a young lady of about twelve years old, suffering under the most horrid punishment, of a *large brown paper fool's cap, a yard in height*, on which was written, *je ne sais pas*, words which she could not translate; this so deeply affected the

mind of the young lady, added to her being nicknamed Mrs. Gulliver (alluding to Gulliver's Travels), from her monstrous height, that she considered the whole of her schoolfellows as Lilliputians, and was about to annihilate the whole school with her pyramidical extinguisher, had not fortunately the schoolmistress, being alarmed by the screams and cries of the diminutive tribe, entered, and saved them all from inevitable destruction. *O tempora! O mores!*

I will leave every unbiassed mind to make its own application on this ridiculous mode of administering punishment. The child suffers not, is not degraded in her own estimation, nor in the estimation of her schoolfellows, not the slightest impression is made in the mind of either, so far as respects either correction or reformation, which should be the sole aim of every punishment: but the most injurious effects remain latent by pursuing this line of conduct; for the children one and all are taught to dissemble, to be hypocrites, to deceive, to assume the appearance of deep regret, affliction, and penitence, in the presence of the governess, who in the mean time obliges the child to make an acknowledgment and confession of the heinousness of her crimes, when in truth the child sees no fault: this is done by means of short questions addressed to the pupils in general, whose answers must correspond with the question; as, Do you not think yourself a very wicked girl? Yes, Ma'am.—Do you not think, young ladies, that a naughty girl, who has committed so dreadful, so gross, so wicked a crime, as to pull off her fool's cap, without permission, deserves to be kept on bread and water for a month? Yes, Ma'am; Yes, Ma'am, reply all, &c. &c. &c. After this manner parents and teachers open one of the most fertile fields imaginable for their children's ruin; therefore "*beware* that ye provoke not your children to sin."

I will now point out one instance among many which I could adduce of the beneficial effects of the *fool's cap* punishment, administered and persevered in with judgment; then hasten to a close.

And first, let me premise, as errors, faults, and crimes, *are* and *will be* committed, that the punishment be in *no case* more severe than is absolutely necessary. Let a trifling error be visited with a trifling punishment; "*a word in season how sweet it is.*" Let not a small crime call forth a great punishment; and let that punishment *be invariably inflicted*, in a cool, mild, and solemn manner; let a stated time and place be appointed for it, sometimes in secret, sometimes in public, according to the magnitude of the offence; and before inflicting punishment, point out the evil tendency of disobedience, illustrated by some striking examples, which have been attended with dreadful issues; in these histories abound, and above all the sacred Scriptures, the death of Uzzah, or the disobedient prophet, for instance; the inattention to one nail in the horse's shoe lost a kingdom; the cackling of geese saved Rome, &c. &c. Point out that it is not the crime or thing itself done for which they are punished, but the *disobedience of orders*, which introduces anarchy, confusion, and consequent destruction; that the moving or displacing of a pin or a piece of paper, is a crime of great magnitude,

because it was forbidden; so was the eating of the apple by Adam: for

> Man's first disobedience,
> Brought death into the world, and all our woe,
> With loss of Eden, till one greater man
> Restore us, and regain the blissful seat.

Now as to the kind of punishment to be inflicted, the age, temper, disposition, and ability of the delinquent must direct; to some a glance of the eye, a motion of the finger, a look of disapprobation, is a sufficient check; to others a mild and gentle reprimand will be of more service than a severe flogging; to one a trifling ridicule, or remove to an inferior place, or class, for a stated time (which should be short), to another a badge of disgrace, by disfiguring with fool's cap or any insignia of displeasure: it is the mind, the conscience, that must feel the disgrace, and not the habiliments; to some severe reproof, to others severe thrashing: that punishment which will correct one, will render another incorrigible; but I must stop, or I shall be forestalling myself, as I intend to submit a regular system in future numbers; I will therefore, for the present, close with an example.

Miss T. a young lady of a remarkably proud and haughty disposition, looked upon herself as superior to her governess, and therefore paid by no means that reverential respect due from a child; she also neglected much her studies, always complained of the difficulty and length of her lessons, and induced her parents to believe that she was overburthened; they requested that a part of them might be remitted, which was done; but still the lessons were unlearnt: at last, she was threatened with the fool's cap. This she would never submit to; the parents also disapproved of the mode of punishment: the child, in short, became ungovernable, and the husband of the schoolmistress took her in hand, declaring, that no parent, for the future, should interfere with the mode of education adopted in their establishment. The young lady paid very little attention to him and his menaces; he coolly told her, that unless a part of her lesson was repeated in five minutes, the fool's cap should be placed on her head. The five minutes elapsed, and no lesson said; he proceeded to perform his promise, which she most violently resisted: he tied her hands behind her; he then allowed her five minutes more, to repeat the lesson, at the expiration of which time her feet should be tied, unless the lesson was repeated: the time expired, and no lesson said; the legs were tied, and five minutes more allowed for the lesson, at the expiration of which time she was to be brought to the parlour window, which looked into the road, where many persons passed. How mortifying soever this might be, the lesson was not said, but a little attention now began to be paid, which had not been done before: Miss is now introduced to the window, with her hands and feet tied, and a large fool's cap on her head; five minutes more are allowed, by which time the first lesson was to be repeated, or the parlour window would be thrown wide open: now this girl for the first time found herself humbled, and began to dread the punishment;

five minutes were allowed for another portion of her lesson, at the expiration of which time, another pupil would be placed by her side, and become her herald to declare aloud, when any person passed by, the cause of her disgrace. The five minutes expired, and the lesson not quite said: now her name is to be proclaimed to every passenger; she could no longer resist, and burst into a flood of tears; the master, however, was inflexible: she promised to conduct herself properly for the future, and begged pardon. No; the lessons must be said at intervals of five minutes till the whole were repeated, and if the whole were not said by a stated time, further punishment would be inflicted and more lessons added. At the expiration of a quarter of an hour she was made to write, "*I am a disobedient dunce*," and pin it on her cap, which she did; by this time she applied heartily to her lessons; night coming on, candles were ordered to be brought, and by degrees one was placed on one side of her, and another on the other side: here she remained till eleven o'clock at night, though not without food, learning many very short lessons, and completed double the quantity of her tasks; the master during the whole of the time appearing quite cool, mild, and determined; and the issue of this is, that ever after she was easily governed, learned properly her lessons, became one of the most brilliant pupils, her parents expressed great gratitude, and herself has repeatedly said that it will never be in her power sufficiently to recompense her master.

I will now challenge Eliza J—to produce a single example of a child being injured by this kind of disgrace, when inflicted with steadiness and discretion.

The remaining part of Eliza J—'s letter shall be noticed on a future occasion.

Sept. 10, 1820. DOMINUS P——.

SIRS,—The topic of the propriety of inflicting punishments on youth, brought on the tapis in your Gazette, has doubtless inevitably aroused a very deep sensation: if you think an observation or two of mine of sufficient attraction to find a place in a Work which I very highly value, I shall be pleased at the honour of their insertion.

Your correspondents on this subject will excuse it, I hope, if I say it is not exactly clear from the epistles of all of them, whether or not, in the present question, which seems to involve the consideration of punishment inflicted for the violation of the rules of good conduct, and also that which some hold to be proper upon failure in the attainment of scholastic acquirements, we are to distinguish the one from the other.

There is another point on which I humbly think there appears a little need of a better understanding. The lady who led the way (with feelings which philanthropy and Christianity must countenance) pointed to the evil consequences of injudicious punishment to the suffering individual; another correspondent assumes it as a received dogma that the chief end of punishment is to inspire terror. This part of the question therefore seems to open into this division. First, whether punishments are in any way eligible towards improvement? and secondly, if they are, whether they are for the benefit

and comfort of the offending pupil, or his schoolfellows, or both? *cui bono?* an inquiry of no small consequence, Sirs, in this selfish world. If it should be decided (I say, Sirs, *if*, in case of the *possibility* that it never may; though that of course is no reason for discarding the pursuit), but if it should be decided that punishments are good and wholesome things, and are *pro bono publico*, or tend in any way to the advancement of knowledge and the improvement of intellect, the consideration will naturally rush into the hearts of many fond parents as to their proper nature and extent. Some of those pointed to by Mrs. W. may be viewed by many inhabitants of this soft city as having too much of a Spartan *dureté* in them, and indeed one can hardly think it a very *gallant* thing to adopt the same mode of punishment to a mild English young lady (or a spirited one either) that an angry housewife would to a thievish cat, or a clown to a truant hog that has thinned his cabbage garden.

Mrs. Jane W.'s testimony of the ill effects of severity would be corroborated by that of a friend of mine, by pointing to the picture of his son Joshua (painted on his leaving school), where the poor lad looks as if he were running from the tuition of a mad doctor, and his brother Titus, who, when the dinner comes up, gapes and stares, and swallows as if he had just swam from the raft of the Medusé; because his tutor forsooth, not being able to cram his theme into the poor boy's head, ordered a vacuum to be produced in his stomach, to see if it could not be inhaled there like the medical gases—and here I trust the abettors of the system of wholesome discipline will agree with me in observing, that although the saying, quoted by the lady who signs "Eliza," of "The bird that can sing and will not sing, must be made to sing," be a very good saying, it was not a very bad one of the man who said "Here's a fine singing bird!" when he had caught an owl—one of the College perhaps, who had been listening to the *Goldfinches*.

For my own part I cannot withhold my testimony of an instance where a species of punishment alluded to by your correspondents, the fool's cap, produced an effect decidedly beneficial; it is in the case of my friend John T——, Esq. barrister at law, who was so often subjected to this discipline, that when he first put his counsellor's wig on, it felt quite a familiar thing to him; but Jack was born a fool, and was the very joy of the whole school; when Jack was wagging his merry noddle under his paper *pileus*, he was in all his glee. One effect in particular, was of essential advantage to him; being generally placed in a current of air, it has added to his other attractions the most delightful snuffle imaginable. Punch may prate in vain where Jack's voice is heard; for Jack was a great favourite in the school buttery, and paid many sly visits to the small-beer barrel. Nevertheless, "facts are not wanting," to give some weight to the arguments of the opponents of coercion; but whether or no, they are "too numerous to establish their positions," I leave to the decision of your correspondent "Dominus P.", only observing that there may be cases in which nature would probably say to tutors, as surgeon Walker observes she might to some physicians, "But for you I should have saved the patient."

I trust, Sirs, you will not suspect me of any want of reverence for "the truth," if, in referring to your correspondent's quotations from the high authority resorted to in countenance of the coercive plan, I should say there may be some doubt of their being altogether so applicable to this age and country as they were to the time and place of their delivery. It is, I presume, pretty clear that the eastern studies were not at all retarded by this mode of tuition; and as to its effect on the habits and manners of the people, I should think it was most excellently calculated to produce that respectful deportment so requisite in countries where it was "not fitting to say to a king, Why dost thou so?" The pupils of this school, I dare say, could many of them "knock head" with the humility of a Chinese; I do not mean to say it is without its recommendations even in this country; indeed I think some of our "leading physicians" must have received the benefit of this system of education, and are living evidences of the *advantages* of it, and I think no one will venture to deny that many of our divines have (especially of late) clearly shewn how much they have profited by it. But as I am inclined to harbour a predilection that your correspondence on this subject (in which divinity, philosophy, and phyic, may all be well called in to assist) may be somewhat bulky, I will decline taking up further room, which might be filled with more *solid* matter.

I am, Sirs,

Your's, very obediently,

Middle Temple, Sept. 21, 1820. OMINOUS Q.

Sirs,—The answer of Dominus P——, in your 57th number, to the judicious observations of Jane W——, upon the treatment of children at school, has afforded much satisfaction to several of your readers, particularly myself, who have long proposed to do the same thing; but my nerves, Mr. Editor, forbade the attempt. Besides, your correspondent appears to be a man of letters, to which, you will easily perceive, I cannot have the slightest pretensions; and yet with due deference to his superior understanding, and overwhelming verbosity, I should wish to be allowed a few remarks upon certain passages in his very elegant epistle; if a sense of the respect due to his honourable calling does not awaken painful recollections, overawe my faculties, and thwart my best intentions—for one must be the merest dolt in the discipline of the *old school,* not to know the chilling influence attendant on such associations in the mind.

First, then, Mr. Editor, your sagacious correspondent charitably concludes, from the animadversions of Jane W. "that it is evident *she* never had the education or management of children under her direction, or she would immediately see the impossibility of adopting the modes she recommends," &c. But it seems that Dominus P. is completely ignorant of the system pursued in the new school; by which all the painful exercises and developments of mental energy are exploded, as subversive of sound principles and highly injurious to *health;* whereas, by this *novel scheme,* education is so simplified, and rendered so amusing, that the child is now taught to sing over his multiplication and other tables, and it has been asserted, upon what authority I know not, that some of these sage innovators have

it under serious contemplation to set the Latin and Greek grammars to some favourite quadrille tunes, for the purpose of obviating the disagreeable necessity of poring so many hours over them; and by the fascinating concurrence of music and dancing, to remove the natural aversion which children evince for those books, and the consequent hatred of Latin and Greek. By this means they think study may conduce to the *health* of the pupils, as well as accustom them, at an early period, to the mellifluous combinations of harmony, and also defeat the alarming antipathies to sound philosophy and sterling worth, which have made such rapid progress in our fashionable seminaries for several years past.

Now, Sirs, had your correspondent been in possession of these particulars, I am inclined to think he would have assumed a different tone, and instead of rashly censuring Jane W. he would have seen the sapience of her observations, and as warmly commended her views and solicitude for the health of the rising generation, as he has been profuse in eulogizing certain young ladies, who, no doubt, have discovered the happy secret of keeping all things objectionable far from the precincts of their establishment. Yes, Mr. Editor, and notwithstanding what Dominus P. may say of the failure of Lilly, Ward, and Busby, or a host of others, "of giving their heart's blood—passing toilsome days and sleepless nights—of breathing out their souls and racking their brains"—I must and will aver, that the discovery is not the less valuable—and that to dance quadrilles to the harmonious numbers of Homer, or chaunt the tables with the soul-elevating cadences of Catalani, is a most admirable improvement in the scholastic art. "This is unquestionably uniting the *utile et dulce* —this is the grand acmé of perfection in school teaching."

The next things to be noticed are the preposterous charges marshalled forth in such terrific order, against parents, by your very profound and conscientious correspondent. "It is *they*," says he, with his wonted charity, "it is *they* who sow the first seeds of evil in the breasts of their tender offspring; it is *they* who teach them to equivocate, tell falsities, pilfer, and rob." Grant me patience, what a catalogue of iniquities! And shall *we*, Mr. Editor, bear this with impunity? shall *we* tacitly submit to be vilified in this manner, and suffer such calumnies to pass current in the world, without one effort to deny or refute them? Is there a parent in Christendom who does not burn with indignation to vindicate the sacred name, and punish the bold accuser as he deserves?

I call upon you, Messrs. Editors, as the guardians of our health—as the friends of humanity, as the defenders of aspersed innocence, to *rebut* these manifest incongruities, to say no worse of them; I call upon Jane W. to repel the charge of inexperience, and to maintain the superior excellence of the new school against all the insinuations and false assumptions of its adversaries; I call upon every parent in the known world to show, that they do not by false indulgence, tampering, and irregular hours, injure the *health* of their children; that they do not by mistaken affection conceal their faults, and thereby encourage frequent repetitions; that they do not by ill-judged lenity shield them from wholesome correction, and thus cherish the

seeds of disobedience, falsehood, and dishonesty. *In short*, I call upon Dominus P. to recant his errors, or to prove the facts.

I am, Sirs, yours, &c.

Sept. 18, 1820. GENIO.

THE LATE PRINCESS CHARLOTTE OF WALES.—On inquiry, which we considered ourselves bound to make, relative to the truth of the information we received from a *very respectable quarter* respecting Mrs. Griffiths, we find that the Mrs. Griffiths, who committed an act of suicide, was not the person who attended the late Princess Charlotte of Wales in the capacity of nurse. The Mrs. Griffiths who attended her Royal Highness, is a very respectable woman, and is still employed as a nurse by some of the first ladies in this country, who speak in the highest terms of her attention and superior management of lying-in ladies and their infants. Since our last number a second edition of Dr. Price's Treatise on the Case of her Royal Highness has appeared.

RYMER, v. THE EDITORS OF THE GAZETTE OF HEALTH.—We were much delighted with the prospect of the merits of this cause being discussed in Guildhall on the 17th instant. The counsels were supplied with their briefs and the witnesses were subpœnaed on both sides. The legality of the nostrum trade was, for the first time in this country, to be discussed in a Court of Justice. Desirous of meeting the question fairly, our attorney subpœnaed two eminent physicians, to whom we are personally strangers, and whom we know to be unfriendly to our publication. On the night preceding the appointed day of trial, we learnt from our attorney, to our great mortification, that Mr. Rymer had withdrawn the record!! We still hope Mr. Rymer will do us the honour of referring his charge of a libel to a jury, and allow us, in the face of our country, to justify the remarks we have made on his *patent* medicine. Towards Mr. Rymer we have no hostile feelings; it is the *practice* of recommending a powerful remedy for a class of diseases which arise from *opposite* causes, and exist in *opposite* states of the constitution that we condemn. Nearly all the diseases that assail poor humanity are to be cured by regulating the system, and surely to subdue the disorder, the treatment must depend on the constitution of the patient, his habits of living, and the nature of the predisposing, exciting, and particularly the continuing causes. With Mr. Rymer's character, either as a surgeon or as an apothecary, we are totally unacquainted, and in the criticism of which he complains, we have not attacked either his professional or his moral character. It is the nature of the traffic we censure, and in doing it we are actuated by no other motive than the good of the public; and if Mr. Rymer be the "*able surgeon*" his solicitors represent him to be, he must allow the truth of our professional remarks on his medicine. The assertion made by Mr. Rymer's solicitors, that we have condemned his nostrum in order to recommend others, is not correct. The Medical Hall was established by the Editors to supply the public with genuine *drugs and chemical preparations*, and for compounding prescriptions with such articles. The Proprietors do not profess to sell nostrums, they make no exhibition of them for sale, and their stock of those which some may suppose to be nostrums,

does not amount to four pounds. The composition of all has been noticed in the Gazette of Health; they are solely kept for the convenience of their friends, and have not been puffed off by the Editors either to promote the interest of the Proprietors or of themselves. No article is sold at the Medical Hall of the composition of which the Proprietors are ignorant, and of which they have not the smallest objection to give every information in their power. If the Editors were concerned in the sale of nostrums, it would surely be to their interest to recommend them, and if their object was to recommend the Medical Hall, instead of attacking the professional characters of "eminent medical men," of which they accuse them, it would certainly be to their interest to extol them as able practitioners, in order to induce them to patronise their establishment. Such sanction would be far more serviceable to them than any publication, however extensive its circulation may be. Once for all the Editors disclaim any interested view in conducting this work, and they defy Mr. Rymer, his solicitors, or any other person, to produce evidence to the contrary. The fact is, that they devote time to the publication which they might employ to a much greater advantage if the accumulation of wealth were their object.

CALUMNY.—A certain class of regular and irregular Quacks, finding the circulation of the Gazette of Health to increase, notwithstanding their misrepresentations, have lately been very industrious in propagating the report that it is not edited by the person whose name appears on the cover, that he did not write the works which have been published under his name, and that the real author of them is at this time living in London. To expose the inventors of this falsehood, the Editor, whose name appears on the cover, determined to prosecute the first person on whom he could satisfactorily fix it. Having been informed that a lady residing near Islington had stated that she had heard that his works were written by a Dr. N., he personally applied to her for her authority.—After many evasive replies to his questions, she told him that she had received her information from a Mr. Jeffreson, Surgeon of Islington.—The Editor accordingly wrote to Mr. Jeffreson to request him to give up his authority.—Mr. Jeffreson called on the Editor the morning after he received his letter, when he most positively denied having made such an observation to the lady, and solemnly declared that he had never heard such a report.—The Editor apprized the lady by letter of Mr. Jeffreson's positive contradiction of having made the assertion, which she had laid to his charge, and put the following question to her, "Have you any objection to give evidence in a Court of Justice, in case I should prosecute Mr. J.?"—She replied, that nothing would distress her more than to be called upon to give her evidence in a *public* court. The lady being very nervous, and her husband (a gentleman of great respectability) being unacquainted with the business, he abandoned his intention of proceeding against Mr. Jeffreson.—No person in England is concerned in the editorship of this work, except the person whose name appears on the cover, and as to his Medical Guide, it was written three years before he knew Dr. N., and not one word of it was written by any other person than the Author whose

name appears in the title page.—In consequence of the enemies of the Gazette of Health having succeeded in giving publicity to this falsehood, the Editors have inserted this article with the view to induce some reader to furnish them with the name of any person who has been so base as to propagate the report, in order that they may prove it to be false, by legal proceedings, which they will immediately institute on receiving such information.

CIDER.—Sirs, The apple of this country, with respect to its native acid (the malic acid) is unquestionably superior to that of any other country.—The fruit, however, is too deficient of saccharine matter to form a good wine, i. e. a sufficient quantity of spirit is not produced during the *vinous* fermentation, to prevent its advancing to the acetous.—Like your Constant Reader, I have not met with Cider, in this country, entirely free from the acetic acid (Vinegar); I have, however, met with an article sold in this metropolis, under the name of Cider, which was free from the malic acid, and consequently did not contain the juice of the apple.—A manufactory of this article from Sugar and Cream of Tartar may be found in the Borough.—Fine Herefordshire Cider, in bottles, at 6*s*. per dozen!! The best method of making Cider is to put the apples, when properly ground, into a vat, and when the surface is covered with froth, as indicating the commencement of fermentation, the juice should be expressed, and a quantity of brown sugar, (in the proportion of half a pound to a gallon) with a small quantity of yeast, should be added. The liquor should then be put into casks and fermented for a week or ten days, when it should be closely bunged.—In a month the liquor may be racked, but the exposure to the atmosphere should be for as short a time as possible. If it continues to fret a small quantity of Brandy should be added. On suggesting this mode of making Cider to a farmer near Hereford, he ridiculed the idea of adding sugar—he contended that by rendering the Cider sweet, its peculiar roughness would be destroyed.—Now the object of adding sugar is to produce a wine which will not advance to vinegar, and thereby to preserve the native acid and the flavour of the apple. In this manner I am certain a vinous liquor may be produced equal to the wine sold in France as a common beverage. In the neighbourhood of Bourdeaux I know the wine makers employ sugar when the grapes have not sufficiently ripened, in consequence of a rainy or cold autumn. Some years ago Mr. Richard Paine Knight, in order to preserve the native acid and saccharine principle of the apple, recommended the farmers of Herefordshire to bung up the casks securely almost immediately after the expressed juice of the apple was put into them. By this method fermentation was checked, but the liquor, although the saccharine matter was preserved, was vapid and turbid. Now the saccharine matter of the apple, or indeed of any other fruit, does not chemically differ from that of the sugar cane; the prejudice of the farmers of Herefordshire to the use of sugar is, therefore, very absurd.

I am, Sirs,

Your obedient servant,

Tooley Street, Oct. 26, 1820. JAMES CRAWFORD.

GAZETTE OF HEALTH.

No. 60. To DECEMBER 1, 1820. Vol. V.

Of Dr. PELHAM WARREN,

Late Physician to St. George's Hospital, Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of London, and Writer of an Article on "Stomach Complaints," in the Transactions of the Royal College.

This Gentleman is a son of the late Dr. Warren, of London, a physician, who, in consequence of peculiarly insinuating manners, and "pleasing converse," conducted the fee trade with greater success than any physician in Europe. So desirous was he that all his friends should have the *advantage* of his *superior* abilities, when afflicted with disease, that he scarcely allowed himself time to take the necessary meals; to him, nothing being more refreshing than the fee: and so attached was he to this cheering result of a visit, that, during the whole course of his medical career, he was never known to refuse the usual compliment; but the very graceful manner in which he condescended to take it, reconciled even the indigent mechanic to the sacrifice. He was also so great a promoter of the draught trade, that he generally ordered one to be taken every third hour, which gave such satisfaction to the apothecaries in general, that when *superior* judgment was deemed necessary, the attendance of Dr. Warren was particularly urged: but during the short illness which terminated his existence, he obstinately refused to have recourse to medicine; and so little confidence had he in the healing art, that he requested his medical friends who called upon him, not to disturb his last hour: and to one who urged him to take a composition, which he declared he had found very beneficial in a similar affliction, he emphatically observed, "I shall soon leave the field open to you;" meaning to insinuate that he was fully aware of the object of his *friendly* visits. The Doctor made no communication to the medical world that will enable us to form an estimate of his professional abilities. Were we to judge from the numerous prescriptions we have seen, and his general mode of practice, we should pronounce him to have been more a man of talons than of talents—but peace to the ashes of the dead. The Doctor gave the christian name of Pelham to his son, the subject of this memoir, in *compliment*, as he supposed, (for he was the accomplished courtier), to the antient, numerous, and wealthy noble family of that name!! After having exhausted all the learning of a primary school, Master Pelham was sent to Oxford, to complete his classical studies. During his residence at this University, he had the great advantage of being introduced to the sons of the first noblemen of the country, who honoured him with the distinction of *the* Doctor. The happy facility and ease with which a knowledge of the classics is obtained at this University, (which some learned philosophers have attributed to a peculiar elastic or vibrating property of the air), enabled Master Pelham to cultivate the acquaintance of his noble associates. He studied so

many abstruse subjects, that the heads of the Colleges were not aware that to be a physician was the "aim and end at which his hopes and all his endeavours pointed." He, however, maintained the character of the general philosopher, occasionally relaxing his mind so far, as to enter into the convivial feelings of his associates. Having attended the requisite number of terms, he obtained the distinguished honour of the degree of M. D.; soon after which he became, as a matter of course, a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, and boldly commenced the practice of physic in the most fashionable part of the metropolis. Some modern writers have had the audacity to assert, that the medical diploma of an English university is no testimony of the competency of the person who possesses it, to exercise the important office of a physician; and that an honorary diploma of the university of Aberdeen, or of St. Andrew's, is more respectable, because, at the latter places it cannot be obtained without a certificate of *proper* medical education, and correct moral conduct, signed by two respectable physicians; whereas, at Oxford, or Cambridge, after keeping a certain number of terms, the degree of M. D. is conferred without any previous examination, touching his medical acquirements. The physicians of the English universities contend, that according to the laws of the country, and especially an obsolete Act of Parliament, granting certain privileges to Oxford and Cambridge, and the charter of the College of Physicians, they alone are entitled to the distinction of *regular* physicians; although it is well known that neither of the places is a school of medicine, and that those who have not attended the lectures and hospitals of Edinburgh or London, where medicine is very properly combined with surgery and pharmacy, cannot recognize the disease, at the bed-side of a patient, of which he may have read, or heard something said by a professor. He is also unacquainted with the articles of pharmacy, with which he is to combat disease, that he cannot distinguish one from the other. In fact, the education of which he boasts, is purely classical: he can quote with great facility the works of Hippocrates and Galen, in their original languages; and with the art of acting the chamber scene he is better acquainted than the graduates of Edinburgh, and other schools of medicine, because his time has been more devoted to society. He is not only the man of accomplished manners, but a good companion at the dinner table; and in promiscuous society, he is generally the most prominent character. Such a man will perform the chamber scene with much greater effect than a person of science and observation; and by attending to trifles, which a man of science despises, such as displaying the fingers and watch, at the time of feeling the pulse, the attitudes when inspecting the tongue and excrementitious discharges, the appearance of sympathetic feelings, the graceful approach, with slow and silent steps, to the bed, and dancing-master-like backing out of the room:—these accomplishments have their effect on the minds of the fantastic hypochondriac, which unfortunately constitute more than one half of the patients of "fashionable physicians;" but alas! in the following scene, that of writing a prescription, in order to entitle this regular physician to the

grand object which influences his sympathetic feelings, or as *Doctor* James Johnson would say, proves the sympathy between the hand and the heart—the fee—what a falling off is there: the pen is displayed to the best advantage, but alas! alas! the prescription exposes the traffic: fortunately it is written in Latin, and fortunately, even the apothecary himself dares not interrogate the prescriber, as to the reason for prescribing such a combination, or to point out the chemical errors, because the *Doctor* is a *regular* physician!!! Under such a man, disease has, indeed, fair play; and if he does no good, it will be most fortunate for the patient if he does no harm. If the patient has a good constitution, or his stamina sound, the disease may run its course without doing much injury to the system; and in that case the physician will take the merit of having saved his life, and his friends will embrace every opportunity to sound his fame; although the probability is, that had he been left to the care of a prudent nurse, he would have recovered much sooner. When, on the contrary, the case terminates unfortunately, his friends congratulate themselves on having employed so great a man; for had he died under the care of the apothecary, they should never have forgiven themselves. He died, *secundum artem*, and therefore no blame can attach to them in the opinion of the world!!

It is far, very far from our wish to depreciate a *classical* education. We mean to contend, that a knowledge of the classics alone cannot qualify a man to exercise the healing art. The person who undertakes the office of a physician, incurs a most awful responsibility. If he cannot call into his aid a knowledge of every department of medicine, he is acting more criminally than the quack who advertises a specific for the cure of every disease, which he knows to be incapable of curing any. To tamper with the life of a fellow-creature, for the mere sake of lucre, is a crime, as Sterne observes, of the blackest hue: but to tamper with the life of a friend, who places the most implicit confidence in his judgment and profession, is cruel and inhuman in the extreme; and such a man who is capable of it, in our opinion, would not hesitate to perpetrate the blackest deed.

The foundation of medicine is chemistry, pharmacy, anatomy, and surgery. Chemistry, a knowledge of which is of as much importance as of any other department to form a physician, is a *modern* science, and so is also *medical* or *constitutional* surgery, and therefore have nothing to do with the classics. When the charter was granted to the College, medicine was at so low an ebb, that it was a very wise measure of Government to confine the practice to men of education, as not likely to impose on the credulity of the afflicted; but *tempora mutantur*: medicine is now, by the industry of the moderns, raised to the dignity of a science: and against those who have brought it to its present state of perfection, the old act of the legislature is still in force; and the practitioners who, under its sanction, style themselves regular physicians, presume to represent those practitioners, to whom the gratitude of the public is due,—as *irregular men!!!* The reason why certain physicians condemn all attempts to diffuse a knowledge of medicine among the different

classes of society, must therefore be obvious to every person capable of reflection.

For this digression from the life of Dr. Pelham Warren, we beg his pardon: and we hope neither his friends nor himself will suppose that our observations have any reference to his medical education or qualification to exercise the healing art.

Dr. Pelham Warren, soon after he commenced the practice of physic in London, had the good fortune to obtain the appointment of Physician to St. George's Hospital, which, his friends flattered themselves, would speedily bring him into notice. The duties of this office he discharged to the best of his abilities:—neither the appointment, nor the success of his practice, brought him into the public notice his friends had anticipated. The appointment he some time since resigned, for which we have heard no plausible reason. The article from his pen, which appears in the transactions of the College, (the only communication he has deigned to make,) throws no light on the causes or treatment of affections of the stomach. It is a mere collection of common-place observations, of which no apothecary in this country would consider himself complimented by having the composition attributed to him. We must, however, do him the justice to say, that on us the perusal of it had a very composing effect; and in case Sir W. K.'s practice of reading novels to lull his R——l patient to sleep should fail, we would recommend him to give this article a trial, provided he has sufficient resolution to resist its soporific operation, till it produces the desired effect on his patient. The doctor's biographer asserts, that "the learned doctor's friends speak highly of its merits." The doctor's prescriptions are so very scarce, that we have not been able to procure one for the edification or amusement of our readers.

DIABETES.—A Doctor Buxton, who for many years held the appointment of Physician to the London Hospital, supposing that the knowledge the profession has of the causes, nature, and treatment of true diabetes, (diabetes mellitus) "is *extremely* confined," has published the particulars of eight cases which occurred in the course of his practice, with the laudable view of extending our knowledge of this formidable affliction. As the doctor has gratuitously favoured us with his *practical* reasoning on them, it is necessary to give the substance of the whole.

Case the 1st.—Mr. M., a tavern-keeper, aged about 35 years, of a pale complexion, and irregular habits. He had been confined to animal food, according to Dr. Rollo's plan, by Mr. Hughes, a respectable surgeon of Gracechurch Street. Dr. Buxton adopted the treatment recommended by Mr. Watts, of the frequent abstraction of blood. He was bled five times in seven days, which so reduced him that he went into the country, and the first information the doctor received was, that he died soon after his arrival.

Case the 2d.—G. B., aged twenty-five, an unmarried female, of fresh complexion. She had received an injury, which occasioned serious hæmorrhage from the uterus. When she consulted the doctor, she voided about a gallon of urine daily. The doctor prescribed the bitter-apple pill to regulate the bowels, and the follow-

ing medicines in succession: —The nitric acid — bear's whortleberry—arsenic—blisters to the loins—nauseating doses of emetic tartar—blisters to the chest, on account of her having "*caught cold*,"—a grain of opium each night—muriated tincture of iron, Peruvian bark—lime water—carbonate of iron, and liquor of potass. She was confined principally to a diet of animal food. She went into the country, where she became exceedingly weak, and her thirst intense. She soon afterwards paid her debt to nature. The urine, in quantity and quality, continued the same till within a few hours of her death.

Case the 3d.---Y. Z., an unmarried lady, aged forty-two, of a fresh colour, spare habit of body, subject to an affection of the skin, to which the doctor would not venture to give a name. It resembled St. Anthony's fire. She had suffered greatly, and for a length of time, from mental anxiety; her habits of life were active. The doctor ordered her a diet of meat, broth, beef tea, common water, and brandy and water. Her rest, after two months' perseverance, became steady and refreshing; the quantity of urine decreased, and she evidently gained flesh and strength. She deviated from his directions by taking vegetables. when the disease increased, and continued to fluctuate as she increased or diminished the proportion of vegetable food. When she confined herself to animal food, every symptom entirely left her; and when the cutaneous affection occurred, although she took vegetables, the disease did not occur. She was attacked with slight pain in the stomach, shortness of breath, frequent pulse, which soon terminated *her* existence.

Case 4th.—William Sawkins, aged 35, ruddy complexion, made, at the time he first consulted the doctor, eight pints of urine, and drank only five of liquid. He prescribed nauseating doses of emetic tartar and ipecacuan, for three weeks; not being relieved in any respect, he ordered twelve ounces of meat, a quart of milk, and a glass of rum, to be taken daily, and to abstain from *all* vegetable articles. He now gained strength and flesh, and the thirst diminished. In six weeks he made only four quarts of urine, and drank only three of liquid. He took medicine only when excessive purging, to which he was subject, rendered it necessary. He also went into the country; after which he heard no more of him, probably in consequence of having extended his journey to "that bourne from whence no traveller returns."

Case 5th.—Mr. B. C. a jeweller, aged thirty-four, of dark complexion, pale countenance, active and temperate habits. He was in an alarming state of debility; made eight pints of water daily, and drank about twelve daily. The doctor ordered a purgative, and to adhere to a diet of animal food. After six weeks' perseverance, he gradually recovered strength and flesh; he drank about eight pints of fluid daily, and made about four. Supposing that he was nearly well, he indulged his inclination to take vegetables; when the disease evidently increased, and afterward varied according to the quantity of vegetables he took. He had been subject to pains in the jaw, and something formed, which the learned doctor, on exami-

nation, found to be a "*gumbile.*" The doctor ordered a cathartic and *ten* leeches, and fomentation to the face. In two days afterward he complained of pain in the chest, with great quickness of breathing. The following morning he took his leave of worldly concerns!!

Case 6th.—Mr. L. M. about fifty, fair and pale complexion, regular and active habits, made *two* quarts of urine daily—was excessive weak. The bowels being confined, he ordered a warm active aperient, which, with a diet of animal food, greatly improved his general health. When he took leave of the doctor, he was making about three pints of water daily, which did not exhibit any diabetic properties; he gained flesh and strength, and *went into* the country.

Case 8th.—This extraordinary case not admitting of being condensed, we give in the doctor's own words:—

"The following instance occurred to me about seven or eight years ago. As I do not recollect the time or the particulars accurately, (having, unfortunately, taken no notes of the case,) I place it last on the list, and merely mention a few circumstances, which I believe to be strictly correct.

"Mrs. E. F., about fifty-five years old, of a florid complexion, and, before this disorder, rather fat. I do not recollect the quantity of water she made, or the length of time she had been ill. The water was diabetic, and she had become very thin and weak. When I first saw her, she had diarrhœa; on account of which, I gave her chalk mixture with opium. She died in a very short space of time after I was called to her. Her death appeared to me to occur from exhaustion, and not to have any of the peculiar features spoken of in some of the preceding instances."

On these cases, which the learned doctor supposes to be genuine diabetes, he makes the following observations:—

"The above eight cases of diabetes are, I believe, all that I have had of this disease since the year 1810. Some months ago, I was called to a dying person, said to have had this disorder. I have seen some examples of diabetes insipidus; but as this appears to me to be a distinct complaint, I have not brought forward those instances. The paucity of the cases is an evidence of the rarity of the disease. I will suppose that I attend three thousand patients in a year (and I believe that in this reckoning I am considerably within the real number.) If, then, I have had eight patients with diabetes mellitus since 1810, the result will be about one in four thousand patients.

"It has not been in my power to discover any circumstance in my patients which disposed them to this disease. Indeed, the only thing in which they agreed was, that they all had passed the youthful period of life; the youngest, Mr. Bl—— (5), being thirty-four; and the oldest, Mrs. E. F. (8), perhaps fifty-five. With respect to the sexes, five were males, and three females. It is rather singular that all the males, excepting one, Sawkins (4), were pale; but all the females were florid. They were all of spare habit, excepting Mr. O. P. (7) and Mrs. E. F. (8). In their stature they had nothing

remarkable, being neither particularly short nor tall. Two of the three females were unmarried. The mode of life of the patients was various; but generally healthy. Mr. M. (1) and Mr. Bl—— (5) resided in town; William Sawkins (4) in the country; Miss Y. Z. (3), Mrs. E. F. (8), and Mr. L. M. (6), in the outskirts of London. Mr. L. M. coming to town during the day. G. B. (2) resided sometimes in London, sometimes in the country; but principally in London. Where Mr. O. P. (7) lived, I know not. With the kind of life led by Mr. O. P. (7) and Mrs. E. F. (8) I am unacquainted; but none of the others were sedentary in their habits; though Mr. M. (1), G. B. (2), and Mr. Bl—— (5), were not much in the open air. Mr. M. (1) was intemperate. I am not sufficiently acquainted with the mode of life of Mr. O. P. (7) and Mrs. E. F. (8), to say whether or not they were temperate; all the others, I believe, were so. Miss Y. Z. (3) had been subject, during several years, to considerable anxiety of mind; but I am not aware that either of the other patients had suffered in this way. The disorder could not, in any instance, be traced to what is usually termed catching cold; nor, indeed, to any other exciting cause; the patients, without a single exception, not being able to speak, with precision, of the time when their disorder commenced. G. B. (2) had had a hæmorrhage eighteen months before the alleged period of the commencement of the diabetes. Mr. L. M. (6), six months before the supposed commencement of the complaint, had had inflammation of the liver; and immediately before its supposed commencement, an inflammation of the bowels. William Sawkins (4) had a pleurisy immediately preceding the diabetes. Mr. O. P. (7) had a hæmorrhage not long before the disease in question commenced. G. B.'s (2) hæmorrhage occurred at a period so distant from that to which the diabetes could be traced, that it is not probable that there was any connexion between them. But it is possible, that the acute disease in the other three instances just mentioned, might, in some way, tend to excite the disorder.

"When the disease was actually formed, its progress appears to have been very different in different patients. In Mr. Bl—— (5) it proceeded with greater rapidity than in either of the other cases. As the plan of procedure was not instantly adopted to the extent I desired, I had an opportunity of seeing in him an amazing change for the worse, in a very short space; so that I believe he would not have lived above two weeks from the time I first saw him, had not some plan been devised to stop the progress of the disease. In G. B. (2) it proceeded with great slowness; and in the other patients with various degrees of velocity between its progress in these two, who, I think, might be considered the extreme.

"The quantity of water made in different cases was by no means the same. In only three instances was it accurately ascertained. William Sawkins (4) passed eight pints of urine in twenty-four hours, and Mr. Bl—— (5) about eight pints; G. B. (2) made six or eight pints; Miss Y. Z. (3) perhaps about five or six pints; Mr. L. M. (6) about four pints; Mr. O. P. (7) about four pints in the night, or about eight pints in twenty-four hours. Even in the same

person, the quantity of water sometimes varied considerably, without any adequate cause, and while the patient was not mending. Thus William Sawkins (4) one day made only four pints and a half; G. B. (2) varied from eight to four pints; both before they began to mend.

"The quantity of residuum to be obtained by evaporating the urine was only tried in one case, William Sawkins (4). When he first was under treatment, and made eight pints of water daily, nearly an ounce of very dry residuum was obtained from a pint of urine. Three weeks afterwards, when he made six pints of water daily, but in other respects was worse, three drachms of very dry residuum were obtained from eight ounces of urine.

"The rapidity with which the disease proceeded, did not appear exactly to accord with the quantity of urine. Thus Mr. Bl—— (5), whose complaint was the most rapid, made eight pints daily; Miss Y. Z. (3), who was proceeding also quickly, but not quite so rapidly as Mr. Bl——, made perhaps five pints in twenty-four hours; while G. B. (2) and William Sawkins (4), both proceeding slowly, made, the former from six to eight, the latter eight, pints of urine. I observed, that the debility was much increased in G. B. when she made eight pints of urine daily; whilst it diminished as materially when she made only four pints. William Sawkins (4), in whom the quantity of water did not vary so much as it did in G. B. (2), did not appear to be stronger when he made only five pints and a half, than when he made eight pints. In each case I am speaking of the period before the patient began decidedly to amend.

"I am inclined to think that the changes of weather produced little effect on the quantity of urine, or on the disorder in general. But I decide on this point with diffidence, as my observations on the disease were not sufficiently correct to enable me to speak otherwise.

"The warm bath, which was administered three times in a week to Sawkins (4), while he was becoming better on meat diet, and which caused him to perspire, did not occasion any alteration in the quantity of urine.

"All the patients were permitted to drink as much as they desired. The quantity varied at different times in the same patient, as well as in different patients; but in general it seemed to me to bear some proportion to the quantity of water which was made. In those cases where a tolerably accurate account was kept, it was found, that in general the quantity of the urine passed exceeded that of the liquids drank, or even of all the nourishment taken in. Thus Sawkins (4), on the 12th of June, three days after he began his meat diet, made five pints and a half of urine, drank three pints and a half of fluid, and ate twelve ounces of meat, making an excess of urine above the fluid of two pints, and one pint and a quarter above the whole ingesta. G. B. (2) made, on the 9th of November, 1812, six pints of urine, and drank five pints of fluid. On the following 2d of January, she made four pints of urine, and drank three pints of fluid. Yet some patients with diabetes drink more fluid than they pass. This appears to have been throughout remarkably the case

with Mr. Bl——(5). After the urine has much diminished, in consequence of a meat diet, the nourishment taken exceeds the quantity of urine. I think this was observable in every case where the quantities were noticed.

"The remedies employed were various; and, though some of them produced benefit, on the whole I have no *great* reason to boast of my success. Nauseating medicines were used fully and freely, with occasional emetics during a month, in the case of Sawkins, (4). This man having been situated in the London Hospital, I was confident that what I ordered was taken. From this treatment he appeared to me to receive no benefit. In the case of G. B. (2) various articles were given. G. B. was a steady attentive woman, and lived in a most respectable family in the city, by whom she was much esteemed. I have, *therefore*, the fullest confidence in her attention to what was directed. It is needless here to mention the medicines, as they are enumerated in her case. No one remedy was, in my opinion, of any *material* use to her, excepting the cathartics and the meat diet, respecting each of which I shall speak presently.

"Blood-letting was employed by myself only in *one* instance, that of Mr. M. (1). In this case it was *fairly* tried; and certainly was *hurtful*, as it did not in any respect diminish the disease, whilst it debilitated the patient considerably. Sawkins (4) said, that early in his complaint he had been bled once a week, and that "it did him no good, but made him low and weak." G. B. (2) remarked, that she always felt low while menstruating, but was stronger and better afterwards. Purgatives have always appeared to me useful when the bowels were constipated; but of themselves totally insufficient to effect a cure, or even materially to diminish the complaint. Patients labouring under diabetes generally have the bowels confined, and the disposition to constipation is usually increased by a meat diet. This rule, however, does not invariably hold good. Sawkins (4) scarcely ever required cathartics, even after he had adopted the animal food; and Mrs. E. F. (8) had diarrhœa; but the bowels of all the other patients were more or less confined. G. B. (2) remarked that she always was least thirsty when her bowels were open; and I could not avoid noticing that the patients appeared best when about two evacuations each day were procured. G. B. for a time, had no other than cathartic medicines.

"Febrile complaints diminish or suspend the disease for a time; but it afterwards returns with just the same degree of violence as before. When G. B. (2) had a cold, as long as this continued, the diabetes abated. While Miss Y. Z. (3) had a more severe febrile disease, the diabetic symptoms totally subsided. When, however, the feverish symptoms declined, those of diabetes were renewed.

"*Meat Diet.*—Rollo's plan, which consists essentially in a meat diet, was said to have been tried with Mr. M. (1), and to have produced no benefit. I have ordered it in the five instances just given; and have found a rapid, a decided, and a beneficial effect in all. But I have not known it to cure in any one example.

I here would observe, that I permit the patient to take the meat in any way which he prefers. Of course, roast and boiled mutton and beef are principally employed. Patients, I believe, could scarcely be prevailed upon to live upon meats rancid and putrid. Indeed I never made the trial; as I found by experience, that even when they were permitted to take the meat in such variety and manner as they pleased, not one would entirely refrain from vegetables, although convinced that they were hurtful. All the patients who employed a meat diet soon became fatter and stronger; and made less water materially, and that of a less diabetic quality than before. The amendment appeared the most conspicuously in the worst cases. Miss Y. Z. (3) was so much reduced, and the disease appeared to be making such rapid progress, that I believe she could not have lived above a month or six weeks longer, had the complaint been left to itself. Mr. Bl—— (5) was still worse, and I have no doubt would have died within a fortnight. Yet after this Miss Y. Z. (3) recovered so far that she could continue in bed through the whole night frequently, without rising to make water, and could walk five or six miles at once without material fatigue; and Mr. Bl—— (5), who had been a remarkably active man in business, amended to such a degree, that he carried on his business with the same activity as before his illness. Amendment, though not to the same extent, was equally perceptible in the other patients who employed a meat diet. Yet that it had not effected a cure was evident from this circumstance, that whenever they deviated materially from the meat diet, the diabetic symptoms were induced. This was particularly remarked respecting Miss Y. Z. (3) and Mr. Bl—— (5).

"Of the above eight patients, I am aware that five died. Respecting the time and circumstances attending the death of Mr. M. (1) I know nothing. Neither do I know the length of the period which occurred between the commencement of the disease and its conclusion in Mrs. E. F. (8). In G. B. (2) the diabetes continued three years; nearly eighteen months before and eighteen months after the meat diet was begun. Miss Y. Z. (3) appears to have been ill two years, during eighteen months of which she took meat diet. On this diet Mr. Bl—— (5) lived above fifteen months. The disease was supposed in him to continue sixteen months; but I am convinced that several more might be added to that time. Indeed, the complaint seems to commence so very gradually, that the patient does not observe when this occurs. Hence the duration of the disorder is, in a great measure, matter of conjecture; and must be considered as such in all the above cases. But what we have here seen is sufficient to show that its continuance is materially different in different instances.

"The death of G. B. (2) and of Mrs. E. F. (8) appears to have occurred from complete exhaustion, each having gradually sunk into the grave. How far the death of G. B. was accelerated by her neglect of animal food, I am incapable of saying, as I did not see her at the time. Judging, however, from her previous situation, and from what I observed in other instances, I think it probable that this circumstance did really hasten her death; but life would

not, I imagine, have been much prolonged by a rigid adherence to the meat diet.

"The circumstances which occurred in the last illness and death of Miss Y. Z. (3) and of Mr. Bl—— (5) present many points of resemblance. They did not sink gradually into the grave, like the two preceding cases, but were attacked suddenly, while possessing moderately good health; Miss Y. Z. (3) having been as cheerful and well as usual three days before her death, and Mr. Bl—— (5) having been engaged in his usual business till the pain in the face became severe!! The manner in which the attack commenced was different in each; Miss Y. Z. experiencing chilliness and a general feeling of uneasiness, without any previous disorder; Mr. Bl——, on the contrary, having had an inflammation of the jaw, which seemed to retrocede. The subsequent symptoms were almost precisely alike in each; some degree of pain in the chest and stomach, great quickness of pulse and breathing, constipation of the bowels, insensibility gradually increasing. Water was made by each till within a few hours of death. It may be here worth while noticing, that G. B. (2) had at a certain period, when I attended her, a swelling of the jaw on one side exactly like the mumps, but that it went away as usual, without being followed by any unpleasant consequences. What could have brought on the final attack in Miss Y. Z. (3), or the conversion of disease in Mr. Bl—— (5), I am utterly at a loss to conjecture. This is the more remarkable in each, because the urine appeared to be continued nearly as before the attack. That the suddenness of the final seizure, and the above symptoms preceding dissolution, are not universal in diabetes, we may conclude from the cases of G. B. (2), and of Mrs. E. F. (8), both of whom appeared to die from exhaustion. That they do not depend merely on meat diet, or on meat diet given in this disease, seems likewise probable, from the instance of G. B. (2); but that they stood in some relation to the diabetes as conjoined with meat diet, I think is rendered highly probable, by the circumstance that where this food had been employed in three instances, two of the patients died in this very unusual manner. That the death of Miss Y. Z. (3) did not take place in consequence of the inflammation of any viscus, was evidenced by the *post mortem* examination. Indeed, I perfectly agree with Messrs. Bean, Brown, and Morgan, that the examination did not lead to any satisfactory conjecture respecting the attack; nor were the symptoms during life such, in either of these cases, as to induce the suspicion that any individual organ was inflamed.

"Conceiving that this paper would be extended to a length almost too great for permitting its insertion in a Journal, I have carefully avoided noticing the cases or opinions of other practitioners, as an allusion to them would have magnified this fault. I fear that my observations will not tend to increase the hopes of cure in diabetes mellitus; but they may contribute in some degree to a more due appreciation of the effect to be expected from remedies employed in this disease, and particularly from a meat diet. They may also direct the attention of practitioners to the circumstances attending the death of those who sink under diabetes — circumstances which hitherto, I believe, have scarcely been sufficiently discriminated."

Of the eight cases of disease, to which the Doctor has given the

name of true diabetes (diabetes mellitus) it appears to us that only one is entitled to the name, viz. that of William Sawkins, case 4. The other cases were very complex, some being attended with hæmorrhage, and others with diarrhœa; the latter of which is, so far as our observations go, never attendant on true diabetes. One patient again drank daily a quart of fluid more than the urine he voided, and most of them died of acute disease of the chest, of which the Doctor seems to have lost sight, in consequence of his mind running on diabetes.

It appears to us somewhat extraordinary, that the scientific Doctor should only subject the urine of the patient, whose case was more clearly *diabetes* than the others, to an examination; and that, after evaporation, he should have neglected to ascertain the nature of the residuum!! Another circumstance still more extraordinary is, that he should give Mr. Watts's treatment of abstracting blood at certain intervals on a debilitated patient *with a palid* countenance, and neglect it in a patient with a *florid* countenance!! Was this proceeding scientifically? We beg to ask the learned gentleman, on what principle he prescribed a diuretic, the *liquor potassæ*? Was it because an *acid* had failed to produce any beneficial effect? The cases and practice are so loosely detailed, that we suspect the Doctor's mind was *wool*-gathering when he drew them up for publication. This is rather a vulgar saying, but the learned Doctor, and his *old* acquaintances, will see its applicability.

INDIGESTION, &c.—SIRS,—I beg to transmit to you the following cases, in order that, should you deem them of sufficient interest, they may be inserted in your useful publication, for the information of your numerous readers. From motives of delicacy, I abstain from giving the address of the patients, but I am ready to prove the truth of the facts narrated.

Case 1*st.*—A middle-aged lady, of a robust form, and a sanguine temperament, had for several years laboured under a disordered state of the digestive organs. The stomach was greatly affected by violent pains, flatulence, spasm, nausea, and vomiting. The biliarly secretions were frequently obstructed, vitiated, and defective, while the bowels required the daily aid of powerful purgatives to assist their action. The alimentary canal being extremely deranged, a long train of nervous affections ensued; such as lowness of spirits, head-ache, and determination of blood to the head. The uterine system also suffered from obstruction, and she became hysterical. She had, for some years, been constantly attended by a very respectable practitioner, and had had the advice of physicians. Under their direction, mercurials, purgatives, tonics, &c., were administered, and for some time the daily use of the vital air inhaled, without producing any other effect than that of a mere temporary relief; in short, she obtained no decided benefit from the treatment, which had thus, for so long a time, been employed. Such was the statement she made to me on the first visit, which was on the 25th of April last. Judging from her general appearance, the state of the tongue and pulse, and the presence of most of those symptoms which she named, I employed the galvanism, with the aid of alkalines, combined with mild aperients, and the occasional use of a foot-bath.

The good effects of this plan were prompt and decisive. After fourteen applications of galvanism, the process was discontinued. The tone of the digestive organs was restored in a few days after her first attendance. The bowels performed their functions with healthy regularity. The obstruction was completely removed, and the nervous system invigorated, and she was freed from the morbid sensibilities which had long oppressed her. Several months after the cure, I was favoured with a letter from this lady, communicating the pleasing intelligence of her renovated health, in the most *positive* and flattering terms.

Case 2d.—A young lady was confided to my care, by an eminent practitioner in town, on the 1st of February last. Her case was a singular one, as she had not the consciousness of any other malady, than that of a local debility of the muscles of the upper part of the left thigh, which rendered her incapable of walking, or even of standing, without considerable pain. In this state she had been more than two years. The tonic plan of treatment and rubbing had, for many months, been followed without success. Fully persuaded that the disorder originated in the alimentary canal, I employed the galvanism to restore the functions of the digestive organs. This being accomplished, the muscular strength was much improved. Two applications of the air-pump vapour-bath procured copious perspiration, and restored the balance of circulation in the affected limb. I then directed the galvanic influence as a topical mode of treatment; and, after five applications of that remedy, she assured me that she had fully regained the strength of her leg; and that, as a proof of it, she had the night before attended a ball, and danced the greater part of the time without fatigue, and without having experienced any bad effects the following day. Being fully satisfied of her perfect recovery, I dismissed the patient, who continues to enjoy the benefit she obtained from the plan I had pursued.

Case 3d.—A gentleman, about sixty years of age, of a scorbutic habit, had, for more than five years, laboured under indigestion, a cutaneous disease, and an affection of the right hip and leg. The disorder was evidently of a chronic nature, and slow in its progress. He suffered alternately from all the effects of his primary disease; such as heart-burn, distension of the stomach from flatulence, sour belchings, flying pains in different parts of the head and the abdominal viscera; chilliness, langour, dejection of spirits, disturbed rest, and habitual costiveness; the functions of the skin were obstructed; insensible perspiration checked; eruptions covered the face, breast, and trunk of the body; the skin was parched, hard, and dry; the alvine secretions were scanty, and by turns exceedingly pale, ash-coloured, or tar-like; the kidneys and bladder were affected; the urine frequently very turbid, at other times limpid; the quantum sometimes profuse, and at other times scanty; the affection of the right hip was occasionally attended with a blunt heavy pain, but the constant feeling was that of debility; he lost all confidence in the muscular power of the limb, and could neither rest upon it, or in any way trust himself to its strength; in walking he used a stick, and on descending a stair he supported himself on the bannisters;

the whole of the leg and thigh diminished in size, as the disorder had continued about *four years.*

Besides the loss of digestion and muscular strength, he partially suffered from a diminution of sensorial power. During the period of his ailment, he had been under the medical care of his family apothecary, who is a most respectable and scientific practitioner; and had also consulted some physicians, whose directions, though seemingly calculated to remove his complaint, failed of their effect. He had had recourse not only to mercurial and other powerful medicines, but also availed himself of the aid of country air and sea-bathing, in vain. When he applied to me, which was on the 10th of June, 1819, he seemed greatly out of health; his tongue was exceedingly foul—pulse languid and irregular—his skin appeared highly tinged with bile; he complained of pain in the right shoulder and ribs, great weakness in the limb; the bowels were obstructed, and the nervous system much disordered. I employed galvanism, with a mild aperient, daily, for a few days. The biliary obstructions were removed, and the bowels acted freely; the skin resumed a healthy appearance, perspiration became regular, and the eruptions about the breast began to disappear; the tongue improved, and he made a rapid progress toward recovery. After *thirteen days'* attendance, he was so much better as to his general health, and the corrected state of the alimentary canal was such, that he ceased to visit me. In the space of *three* weeks, every painful and uneasy sensation in his leg was removed; and, as it fully regained its former strength, he could bear on it his whole weight, with perfect confidence, and walked without a stick. I had the pleasure of seeing him lately, when he assured me, that he had continued to enjoy an excellent state of health. One fact connected with this case, proves the efficacy of the remedy I employed, more than even the good effects the patient derived. He kept late hours, ate heartily of a variety of high-seasoned food, drinking malt liquor, port wine, and spirits; and, in spite of all I could do to dissuade him from such a course, as having a powerful tendency to keep up a morbid irritation in his system, and retard or prevent a cure, he plainly declared his determination, not to change his usual mode of living. Yet I found, that, notwithstanding his obstinate perseverance in a *wrong* diet and *irregular* hours, the galvanism, with the occasional aid of a few grains of rhubarb and magnesia, completely restored him to health, and to the full and vigorous use of his corporeal powers.

November 17*th*, 1820. M. LA BEAUME,

31, *Southampton Row, Russel Square.*

SNIFFLING, OR CORYZA OF INFANTS.—A Dr. Rayer, a physician of great eminence in Paris, has lately published some observations on this affection of the nostrils of infants at the breast, which in this country particularly is very common, and often so distressing, as nearly to prevent the infant's sucking. It is characterized "by sneezing; tumefaction of the nose and eye-lids, and a shining appearance of the skin covering those parts; constant preservation of an open state of the mouth; a rather dry state of the lips and tongue; respiration accompanied by a nasal wheezing; impos-

sibility of continuing to suck, though liquids put into the mouth are swallowed with facility: the infant takes the nipple in his mouth, but he has hardly made three or four suctions, when his respiration appears to be obstructed; his face becomes of a violet colour; he precipitately abandons the nipple, utters some cries, or is seized with a fit of severe coughing, which leaves him in a state of partial stupor. These accidents disappear in a short time, but are renewed whenever he again attempts to suck. This first stage of the disease lasts for four or five days, or thereabouts: it is followed by a secretion from the nasal cavities, the existence and quantity of which, at least in new-born children, it is not always easy to ascertain, because it either dries or falls into the pharynx when the infant lies horizontally on its back."

The following cases, given by the Doctor, and observations on them, exhibit more fully the nature and progress of this affection; and point out the most successful mode of treatment:—

"A well-formed, but weakly, male child, had continued to suck as well as such infants ordinarily do, from five hours after its birth until it was eight days old. At this time the infant seemed to be agitated; its mouth was kept half opened, and its lips and tongue were somewhat dry. Respiration was performed with difficulty, and accompanied with a sort of nasal sniffling, peculiar to Coryza. It was in vain, many times in the course of this day, that attempts were made to get the infant to suck: as soon as he had made one or two suctions, his face became of a violet hue, he suddenly quitted the breast, and fell into a temporary state of partial torpor, after having had a fit of coughing.

"Persuaded that these accidents might depend on an unfavourable conformation of the nipple, or on some deletereous quality of her milk, the mother tried, with a sucking-bottle, to make the infant take by this means some cow's milk mixed with one third of barley-water. The accidents above described were renewed, and I was sent for.

"The mother appeared to me to have all the qualities necessary for a good nurse; the nipple, especially, was well-formed. I passed my finger into the mouth of the infant; he gently sucked it, abandoned it, and began to cry. Wishing to be assured of the correctness of what had been stated to me, I requested the mother to put the nipple into the child's mouth: he had hardly made one or two suctions when his face became of a violet colour; he cried violently, and fell into a state of partial stupor, after having suffered a violent fit of coughing.

"An attempt with the sucking-bottle, which I witnessed, was equally unsuccessful, and was accompanied or followed by the same phenomena.

"I then tried to make the infant take a spoonful of water, sweetened with sugar: he swallowed it easily and almost with avidity. I gave him several others with the same success.

"The absence of any appearance of malformation of the tongue or of the mouth, the facility of deglutition, the occurrence of fits of coughing every time the infant attempted to suck, and the certainty

that it had sucked very well on the preceding days; all these circumstances, joined with some particular symptoms which I observed, such as a shining appearance of the skin of the nose, with a tumefaction of this part and of the lower eye-lids, a nasal sniffling, the manner of respiration by the mouth, convinced me that all these accidents, and especially the impossibility of suction, were the results of inflammation of the mucous membrane of the nasal cavities. My directions to the attendants were, to make a fire in the room, which was very cold; to keep the infant warm, and free from the influence of currents of air, to give it milk by a spoon, to foment its nostrils with a warm emollient decoction, and carefully remove the mucus collected in them; and I stated that *the infant would again be able to suck as soon as the state of the nasal cavities would permit it to breathe with the mouth closed.* Six days were sufficient to justify this prognosis.

"On the 20th of February, 1820, I was consulted by a woman of the lower class of persons, about a child, born at the full period and well formed, six days old, which had refused to suck for the last eight-and-forty hours. It was supposed that the child was tongue-tied, and it was brought to me for the purpose of knowing whether or not this was the case.

"I was told that the mother was in good health, that her nipple was well-formed, and that she had plenty of milk. The child had sucked for the first four days, like those infants do which are easily brought up.

"On examining the face of the child, I remarked a slight swelling of the eyelids and nostrils, and a shining appearance of the skin covering those parts: the lips were dry; the mouth was half opened; the tongue and its frænum were well-formed.

"After having gently run the end of my little finger along the lips of the child, I passed it into his mouth; he seized it, and I felt his tongue applied to it. He made an inspiration as if he would suck; but he then immediately abandoned my finger, and began to cry in a shrill and plaintive manner. The woman who brought him to me said, that when he attempted to take the breast, he cried much more violently; and that he had sometimes such severe fits of coughing, followed by such a state of stupor, that they were alarmed for his life.

"Respiration was obstructed, and produced a sound, or nasal sniffling, peculiar to coryza. The child had taken with ease some spoonsful of water sweetened with sugar, which I also gave it, that I might be assured of the way in which it swallowed. The whole of the circumstances of the case led me to regard it in the same way as the foregoing one; and I directed that the child should be fed with milk, and managed in a similar way. It lived for four days on cow's milk and barley-water alone. On the 26th and 27th of February it began to suck, and on the 28th it obtained thus the whole of its nourishment.

TIC DOLOUREUX.—We have received several testimonies of the beneficial effects of the subcarbonate of iron, (administered to the extent lately recommended by Mr. Hutchinson,) in subduing this

most painful malady. A respectable lady of Dublin states, "During the space of six years, I had been suffering from that most afflicting disease, *Tic doloureux*, the agonies of which can only be known to those who have experienced them. Supposing the moist atmosphere of Ireland to increase the disorder, I determined to try a less variable climate. Last May I accordingly accompanied a friend from Dublin to her seat near Ledbury, in Herefordshire. I was altogether disappointed in the effects of the change. The paroxysms became more frequent, and more acutely painful, than they had been for many months. At this time I fortunately became acquainted with a gentleman in Ledbury, who sent to me the number of the Gazette of Health, which contains an account of the beneficial effects of subcarbonate of iron, on *Tic doloureux*. The cases related by Mr. Hutchinson were so satisfactory, that I determined to give the remedy a trial, although, I confess, my hopes of receiving benefit from it were not very sanguine, from having formerly consulted the first medical men in Ireland, and some in England; and having sent a statement of my case to France, I had medicines sent from Paris, which completely failed. Were I to enumerate half the remedies to which I have submitted, they would far exceed the limits of a letter: suffice it to assure you, that I had for six years devoted myself to medicine in vain, until it pleased Providence that I should, by your means, be made acquainted with a remedy discovered by the scientific surgeon Hutchinson. Such a length of time had elapsed after I discontinued the remedy, that I flattered myself I should never feel it more, until a change of weather, this last week, brought on a slight degree of pain. It has however given way to the subcarbonate of iron." Dr. Reyen, a German physician, informs us that he, and many of his friends, have found the remedy to merit the high character we have given it as a specific for Tic doloureux.

GOUT AND RHEUMATISM. — The numerous reports we have received, since the publication of our last number, of cures of rheumatism and gout, by the wine of the colchicum seeds, prove, beyond doubt, the *specific* effect of that remedy on gout and rheumatism. We have met with cases of rheumatism, acute and chronic, (many of the latter of long standing) which gave way in a few hours to the remedy. It seldom acts on the stomach and bowels, so as to produce nausea or diarrhœa; and we have met with rheumatic and gouty subjects, who have found their digestive organs improved by it. The best preparation of the seeds, is an alcaline wine, made by adding the carbonate of potass and the compound spirit of ammonia, to a saturated vinous infusion. This composition we have alone given, and such has been the great success that has uniformly followed the exhibition of two or three doses, that we can assure our readers, it is a very effectual and safe remedy, both for rheumatism and gout. The dose of the alcaline wine, is from one to three tea-spoonsful, which may be taken in a little water, three times in the course of twenty-four hours. An intelligent gentleman, of Wellington, in Somersetshire, who has given the wine of the colchicum seeds a trial, informs us, that he has found the com-

position of sulphur, rhubarb, guaiac gum, and purified nitre, recommended by a gouty gentleman, residing near Birmingham, in our number for January last, to have had wonderful effect in removing the swelling of the joints, the sequel of gout. He did not take the powders mixed with treacle, according to our correspondent's direction, but took five grains of each of the ingredients, except the flowers of sulphur, the quantity of which he increased or diminished, so as to keep the bowels in a regular state. Mr. Haden, a scientific surgeon, of Chelsea, has lately published a treatise on the Powers of the Meadow Saffron Root, in subduing inflammatory action, without the aid of bleeding; by which it appears, that his father, an eminent surgeon of Derby, has been in the habit of prescribing the remedy many years in a variety of inflammatory diseases, particularly rheumatism, gout, incipient consumption, &c. with so much success, as to render bleeding unnecessary. "In pure inflammation," says he, "if it be given every four hours, until it produces an abundant purgative effect, the pulse will become nearly natural, from being either quick and hard, or slow and full." This he has observed to happen before purging has taken place, and the effect to be so certain, that he never had recourse to bleeding, unless inflammation existed, to an alarming degree, in a vital part, and then never more than once. He adds, "fevers and inflammation so removed, never require the use of tonic medicines during convalescence; the patients, indeed, generally appear to be as well, as though they had not been at all the subjects of disease; and although it sometimes happens that a recurrence of symptoms takes place, it is of a much milder degree; and the new disorder is always immediately removed by a very little of the same treatment." "The sensible effects of the *colchicum*," Mr. Haden, junior, observes, "appear to be to control the action of the heart and arteries, and indeed often to reduce that action below that of the standard of health. This effect (says he) is frequently produced long before its sensible effects are apparent; but when continued long enough, and generally before its remedial virtues are decidedly obtained, purging takes place." This remedy, he very judiciously observes, is "a very powerful one, and therefore either for good or for evil. It is not a medicine to be played with, nor a weapon to be wielded by unskilful hands, without danger. Like the lancet, if used improperly, or pushed too far, it will bring with it regret or disappointment; but, like the lancet, it will amply repay him who uses it skilfully, and with due caution and moderation." Mr. Haden gives a preference to the dried root, in powder. He has not, however, given the seeds a trial, but expresses a hope, that Dr. Williams will continue his experiments with them, and communicate the results. The root operates more violently on the stomach and intestines, and acts more powerfully on the arterial system, than the seeds; and, at the same time, is less efficacious in the cure of gout and rheumatic. Indeed, the seeds, as Dr. Williams observes, cure rheumatism, without reducing the vital powers. Mr. Haden's cautionary observations do not, therefore, apply to the seeds of the plant. It is, however, only in cases of acute rheumatism and gout, in a good constitution, that we would recommend our readers

to employ either the wine of the seeds, or any preparation of the root alone. In chronic rheumatism, either of them should be combined, with such remedies which the state of the general health may indicate. In case of gout of elderly people, or occurring in a weakly or impaired constitution, and particularly when the viscera are occasionally attacked, even the alcaline wine of the seeds should be administered, with a tonic medicine, as the compound tincture of the rhatany root, or peruvian bark. Potent medicines are the most valuable we possess; and their injurious effects are always the consequence of *injudicious* exhibition. Even the most innocent medicine, by abuse, may be productive of mischief. If an article is incapable of doing harm, it surely cannot be capable of doing much good, in cases of disease.

ELECTRICITY.—Mr. Price, a London surgeon, of great experience, observation, and scientific attainments, has published a practical treatise on the salutary effects of the electrical fluid on a variety of diseases arising from diminished nervous excitement, visceral obstruction, debility of absorbents, and chronic inflammation; in which he points out the most efficacious modes of applying it in different complaints. We are sorry we did not receive a copy of this interesting publication in time to give the substance of it in our present number.

ASTHMA, WINTER COUGH, AND CONSUMPTION.—We have witnessed the very beneficial effects of the ligneous syrup of the colchicum seeds in several cases of asthma, winter cough, and incipient consumption, and have received several testimonies of its success in similar cases from respectable quarters. Its beneficial effects are instantaneous, and in many cases have proved permanent. We shall, for the present, briefly notice those cases which have occurred in our own practice.

Mr. B. senior, of Bedford-street, Covent-garden, aged 70, of a florid complexion and good constitution, had suffered exceedingly for two days, from asthmatic difficulty of breathing. On the 24th instant he took, during a most distressing asthmatic paroxysm, which seemed to threaten suffocation, two tea-spoonsful of the ligneous syrup, in a glass of *warm* barley water. A few minutes after he swallowed it, the sense of oppression began to abate, and in the course of an hour his breathing was comparatively easy; he afterwards enjoyed sound refreshing sleep for six or seven hours, and rose the following morning without any symptom of the disease. It produced a slight aperient effect: his digestive organs were greatly improved by it.

C. R. was affected with a troublesome cough, attended with great difficulty of breathing, copious expectoration, and quick pulse. After taking two tea-spoonsful of the ligneous syrup in a wine-glass of barley water, every fourth hour, for one day, the cough became very trifling, the breathing easy, the pulse natural, and the expectoration considerably diminished. After persevering in its use two days longer, she was free from any affection of the chest. It acted slightly on the bowels, but did not disturb the stomach. We have about eighteen more cases of affections of the lungs, which were cured as effectually and speedily by the ligneous syrup, as the fore-

going, which we must omit, to make room for other matter. Since writing the above, we find that Dr. Hastings, an experienced physician of Worcester, has prescribed the colchicum with the most decided advantage. In his treatise on inflammation of the mucous membrane of the lungs, he observes, under the head of Treatment of Incipient Consumption,—"I have found it an excellent remedy." Mr. Hadin, in his late treatise on the colchicum, asserts that he has administered the colchicum with success in inflammatory affections of the lungs. This gentleman's publication we have noticed in our present number, under the head of Gout and Rheumatism. When the system is much emaciated or debilitated, either by winter cough or asthma, and during an advanced stage of pulmonary consumption, the decoction of cocoa-nuts ground with a small proportion of Iceland moss, with an addition of sugar and milk, affords an excellent article of diet, especially for breakfast and supper.

DERANGEMENT OF THE LIVER, &c.—No theory or hypothesis has proved more advantageous to regular and irregular quacks, than that all the disease which assail poor humanity, originate in derangement of the liver. Parson Barclay, about twenty years ago, boldly asserted that the liver was the fruitful source of disease, and that vitiated bile was the immediate cause of gout, rheumatism, head-ache, and a vast number of other complaints, both acute and chronic. Most fortunately for the comfort of his dupes, the Divine had also discovered a remedy, capable of correcting unhealthy bile, and of obviating its baneful effects on the system. For this very opportune discovery he obtained a patent; and the names of the late Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishop of Bath and Wells, and a few *Right Honourable* Gentlemen, were artfully introduced in his public advertisements, to promote his *laudable* object. The wanton promulgation of the composition of the Divine's wonder-working nostrum, by the mischief-making editors of the Medical Observer, proved fatal to its reputation; and the bishops and noblemen, whose names he had made use of, were so ashamed of having sanctioned the traffic, although carried on by a clergyman, that they withdrew their sanction; and some confessed to the editors, that they had not even taken the medicine!!! The Doctor's theory did not die with his "famous antibilious pills." It had been industriously advertised in all the newspapers in the country; and coming from a learned divine, it gave such general satisfaction, that almost every invalid attributed his bodily affliction to bile; but whether to an excessive or scanty secretion of it they could not say. Acidity, flatulence, nausea, head-ache, pain in the stomach, the limbs, &c. were with them symptoms of the presence of vitiated bile in the stomach!! The late Dr. Saunders availed himself of the *favourable* impression the parson's theory had produced on the public mind; and the chylopoietic doctrines of Mr. Abernethy, made converts of many medical men, who were capable only of taking a contracted view of them. The opinions of Mr. Abernethy are those of Hippocrates, to understand which, it is absolutely necessary to be acquainted with the works of that great man. The nostrum-mongers have taken advan-

tage of the popularity of the Bile Theory; and every week, for the last ten years, has produced an infallible antibilious remedy.

About two years ago, two navy surgeons, a Mr. Faithhorn, and a Mr. James Johnson, boldly entered the field, and by means of book-making, and display of superior knowledge of hepatic diseases, threatened to expel the nostrum-mongers. Mr. Faithhorn commenced his attack most formidably, by a book, with a most attracting or entrapping title-page. He treated most plausibly on the nature and cure of diseases of the liver and stomach; and embellished it with numerous cases, most strikingly illustrative of his superior management of "*bilious subjects.*" He commenced his career as a *Surgeon and Squire*, to which titles he has lately added the very imposing one of M. D.; which was no doubt conferred on him by some liberal-minded university, as a mark of their gratitude for the additional light he had thrown on the cause, &c. of diseases, and his deep knowledge of the medical arts.

The Doctor's superior mode of treating diseases of the liver and stomach, and its happy results to *himself*, are fully detailed in the Letters he addressed to an invalid in the Isle of Wight, which we published in an early number, by the patient's particular request, for the *benefit* of our readers. To this *gentleman, Doctor* James Johnson is likely to become a most formidable opponent. This gentleman, on settling in London, the best field in the world for the display of such brilliant abilities, also commenced his career as a Surgeon and a Squire, to which he has lately added the imposing initials of M. D.!! So that the two candidates for this honourable species of fame, are, with respect to titles, on an equality. *Doctor* Johnson, in his book, lays claim to the discovery of a sympathy between the skin and the viscera of the chest and belly, particularly the liver; and this, says he, as far "as *I* know, has not been noticed by *any* author till *I traced*, in *my* work on the influence of tropical climates on European constitutions, though *I* hope it will not be overlooked by *future* OBSERVERS."!!! To this *important* discovery as to the diseases of the liver, occasioned by "the influence of a tropical climate on the skin," he might have indulged in an appropriate parody, (a pleasing act of scribbling, in which he is allowed to excel)

"I know thee from within
"Thy local actions to the outward skin."

This doctrine, on account of its novelty and importance, must of course be brought forward in an appropriate technical dress. The sympathy between the skin and lungs, he terms *cutaneo-pulmonic*; between the skin and stomachic, cutaneo-gastric; the skin and intestines, cutaneo-intestinal; the skin and kidneys, cutaneo-renal; and, "although last not least," between the skin and liver, *cutaneo-hepatic!!* He has likewise discovered, that there is also an internal sympathy;—that the internal organs sympathize with each other; that the liver often sympathizes with the heart, hence cardi-hepatic sympathy; and so *cordial* is this sympathy, that even cardi-hepatic derangement is not unfrequently the consequence!!! That cutaneo-visceral sympathies exist, the learned Doctor supposes to be most

satisfactorily proved, as the "insalutary impressions, transmitted from the surface of the *central* part of *our* bodies, may be there *reproduced* and *transmitted* from organ to organ by means of those sympathies, till *various* and *complicated* maladies, accompanied by a tribe of *obscure* and anomalous symptoms, have arisen, that are as embarrassing to the physician, as they are to the patient." This sentence very properly terminates with a mark of admiration. These most brilliant flights of fancy must necessarily destroy the popular reputation of Dr. Solomon, and may be considered a body blow to the *celebrated* Dr. Faithhorn. Well done, indeed, heroic Dr. Johnson! The cutaneo-visceral sympathies, the learned Doctor supposes, are again proved by application of "WET to the surface of the body." The effect of an external application of "wet" on an internal organ, depends on its temperature. When applied in a *cold* state to the skin, even of a part remote from a diseased viscus, it will often produce pain in it; but when applied *warm*, it will afford relief in the part. The doctrines of sympathy are to be found in the works of the most antient writers, and are as absurd as any that have been broached by any antient or modern charlatan. The whole nervous system is an extremely sensitive mass; and if the natural temperature of a part be *suddenly* reduced many degrees, by an application of cold water or exposure to cold air, pain or spasms will occur in a diseased or preternaturally irritable viscus. Hence, if a person with tender or diseased bowels expose a part of the body to a cold air, or even immerse an extremity in cold water, spasms or diarrhœa, or both, will follow. A person with diseased or irritable bladder will immediately, on such practice, experience pain in that viscus; a person whose nerves of the trachea are preternaturally excitable, or subject to paroxysms of asthma, will, under the same circumstances, experience an asthmatic paroxysm; and in others, with irritable lungs, a cough would ensue. These are effects of a *general* impression on the nervous system; which, of course, will affect the part which is excited, or most excitable, or in which structural disease exists. It is the local abstraction of heat, or reduction of the temperature of a part, that acts insalutarily on a disordered viscus; for an article which increases the temperature of the skin of a distant part, on the contrary, acts salutarily on a diseased internal organ. Now if this operation be *sympathetic*, a *stimulant* applied to the skin would aggravate an inflammatory affection of an internal organ; but instead of this being the case, internal inflammation and spasms are uniformly relieved by immersing the extremities in warm water, and by exciting inflammation of the skin, whilst the application of cold water as uniformly aggravates the internal disease. The one proves beneficial, by increasing the afflux of nervous fluid and blood to a part distant from the internal disease, while the other, by paralyzing the nerves of the part, occasions a greater determination to the seat of disease, or is the insalutary operation, the consequence of an effort of the nervous system to overcome the local debilitating effect of an abstraction of heat, or to restore it to its natural temperature. This theory is confirmed by the topical effects of warm and cold applications to an inflamed or preternatu-

rally irritable part. The application of the same degree of heat (say 120 Farenheit) to an inflamed part, will aggravate the mischief, by increasing the determination to it, whilst that of cold will afford relief, by diminishing nervous energy. That a sympathy exists between some of the internal organs, no practitioner of observation will deny; and that sympathy may be satisfactorily tracedto a more or less direct connection of nerves. The heart is, perhaps, always more or less disturbed, when a viscus is so far diseased as to prevent the free transmission of blood through it. Thus, when the parenchyma of the lungs or liver is loaded with lymph, the large vessels of the heart will be over distended, in consequence of the diseased organ being compressed; but this affection is not from sympathy, but arises from mechanical obstruction. If the theory of cutaneo-visceral sympathy was correct, why should cold water applied to the feet produce pain and inflammatory action in the stomach, and cold water applied to the stomach have a contrary effect on the feet? A person with cutaneous inflammation uniformly experiences an abatement of symptoms on taking cold water, whilst a hot or stimulating application to the stomach uniformly aggravates the complaint. The fact is, the theory of cutaneo-visceral sympathies, or the viscero-cutaneous sympathies, as well as all of the other sympathies, the discovery of which, the doctor is so desirous to convince his ignorant readers, is new and important, by giving them fine sonorous names, are as absurd and ridiculous as the *Dorsal Theory*, promulgated by Dr. Solomon, to alarm the minds of youth, in order to induce them to take his pretended Balm of Gilead. The doctor imagines that they will powerfully operate on the minds of the ignorant, in favour of his superior knowledge of their maladies, and therefore promote the grand object of his labours.

We were very near taking leave of the doctor's system of sympathies, without noticing his extension of the old doctrines of the influence of the brain, on the thoracic and abdominal viscera, and *vice versâ*. Here we have the cerebro-gastric sympathy, the gastro-cerebral sympathy, the cerebro-hepatic sympathy, and the hepatico-cerebral sympathy, &c. &c. This discovery has enabled him to treat, with peculiar effect, on the "diseases of *literary* men." As the skin sympathizes with the liver, &c., we have therefore cutaneo-hepatico-cerebral sympathy; and, as the mental operations, or, as Mr. Lawrance terms ideas, &c. *secretions* of the brain, we have cutaneo-hepatico-cerebro-mental sympathy; or when the mind is primarily affected, the mento-cerebro-hepatico-cutaneous sympathy!! When the sympathy is confined to the brain, so as to disorder its own functions only, then it is mento-cerebral, of which there are many species, viz. verbo-cerebral, characterised by a use of fine sounding words, or what some may term, *vox et preterea nihil*—the scribo-cerebral irritation, which keeps up an irresistible inclination on the unfortunate patient, to write, which is vulgarly termed the *cacoethis scribendi*, a disease of the brain, with which, like mania and ignorance, no man knows when he is afflicted. The doctor, however, in his chapter on the diseases of *literary* characters, states, that "he has long directed his researches to the *effects of* MENTAL emo-

tions on the heart and nervous system; and should a common degree of health be spared, "I hope (says he) to bring forward some *new* and *important* information on this interesting subject, ere long." Poor fellow! we really feel for him. We advise him to consider the serious effects such an exertion of *his* verbo-cerebral powers may have on his general health. Being a *literary* character, we hope his discoveries will enable him to counteract the baneful effects of such mental exertions or *emotions*. That he should have any doubt of his health not being spared to finish his arduous task, we confess, does not argue much in favour of his new and important discovery.

The doctor also fancies he has discovered, that the use of the bile is to *precipitate* chyle from the chyme. That the bile *separates* chyle from the digestive food, is an old opinion; but that it *precipitates* it, is certainly a *new* idea. Unfortunately for the learned doctor, the chyle is specifically lighter than the feculent matter which remains; and to talk of *precipitating* a lighter body, betrays an ignorance of chemistry. The adoption of this word, by the learned doctor, is like surgeons prescribing *evaporating* lotions, who wish to be thought scientific, or to be acquainted with chemistry. Some weeks ago we heard a surgeon say, that, in a case of white swelling, he had employed the camphorated volatile liniment, with tincture of cantharides, as an *evaporating* liniment!!

We have perused with attention Dr. James Johnson's *Practical Observations*, in the hope of finding some information that might *practically* prove beneficial to such of our readers, as are subject to, or afflicted with, the diseases on which the Doctor treats. We have, however, been most cruelly disappointed; because we were led to expect, by his advertisement, that it did contain much original matter of importance. The author is so much pleased with the criticisms on a former edition of his Book, which have appeared in some periodical publications, that he has introduced what are termed "pithy extracts," immediately after the list of contents, so that they constitute a part of the new edition. The editors of the Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal, assert, that Dr. Johnson is an *intelligent and spirited writer*, and that the chapter on the conservation of health, is illustrated by *many excellent* observations." The editors of the Annals of Medicine and Surgery, a work long since consigned to the use of retailers of butter and cheese, were so much pleased with the Doctor's lucubrations, and "his contributions to the improvement of the *profession*," that they signified their intention "to dedicate one of their numbers to Dr. Johnson."!! Weak indeed must the Doctor be, if he did not perceive this to be a quiz. To these testimonies, he gives a quotation from a *letter* addressed to him by Dr. Dick, stating that he *highly* approves of *almost* every line of Dr. Johnson's work;"!! and from Dr. Armstrong's Treatise on Typhus Fever; viz. "That the public, he (Dr. A.) conceives, much indebted to Dr. James Johnson, author of a *valuable practical* work on the influence of tropical climates."! The Doctor seems to have been as industrious in searching for and obtaining testimonies in favour of his work, as Dr. Solomon has been in favour of his Balm of Gilead. That Dr. Duncan,

junior, of Edinburgh, a physician of great science, and one who seems to be desirous to support the dignity of the profession, should compromise the respectability of his Journal, by praising such a contemptible production, is to us a matter of astonishment. We defy him, or any of his coadjutors, to point out one "excellent observation" in Dr. Johnson's work, or one idea, that can, in the smallest degree, justify the assertion, that the author is an *intelligent* observer; nor can he point out one page that does not contain an absurdity. The work is, in fact, made up with a collection of fine-sounding words, well arranged to have the intended effect on the ignorant, being often unintelligible and always flowery, but conveying no useful information whatever, either with respect to the causes, nature, prevention, or cure of any disease. It is a kind of airy nothingness, embellished with scraps of Latin and poetical quotations: it is, in fact, what the French term "*soufflet literaire*," signifying bulk without substance. That Dr. Armstrong, a man also of science, should notice such a contemptible work, is to us no less a matter of surprise. Dr. Johnson had, however, panegyrised the works of Dr. Armstrong, and one good turn deserves another. The nature of the "litero-sympathy," which exists among authors, we intend fully to explain in our next number. When an author gives extracts from the reviews of his works, so fulsomely panegyrical as those which Dr. Johnson has given, the inference is, that he is not a man of science; for to a man of science nothing is more disgusting than unmerited praise, or, indeed, any thing like panegyric. For our own parts we cannot help thinking that his reviewers only intended to quiz him.

PUERPERAL FEVER.—The following case, illustrative of the good effects of blood-letting, in puerperal fever, is from the pen of Mr. Aspray, an eminent surgeon of Olney:—

Mrs. R., aged 23, of spare habit, although of general good health, was delivered, on the 30th of July, after the ordinary term of utero-gestation, of a fine child, without any deviation from the usual circumstances of natural labour. However, about twelve o'clock at midnight, of the 31st of July, a violent cold shivering occurred, which continued half an hour, and was quickly followed by pain in the abdomen and head, accompanied with death-like paleness diffused over the countenance, with great prostration of strength. At noon the succeeding day, (August 1), the rigour returning, I was consulted. In addition to the enumerated symptoms, I found quick pulse of 120, and considerable soreness on pressure of the abdomen, from which I deemed it advisable to extract blood, which was done to the quantity of twelve ounces: this mitigated the vehemence of pain, &c., but in the evening it increased, and a second bleeding was resorted to, of the same amount, which also was productive of relief.

On the 2d of August, febrifuge medicines, as Mindererus's spirit, the febrifuge antimonial powder, &c. were used, in order to excite perspiration, which was soon effected. As the pain continued, although somewhat abated, twenty leeches were applied to the abdomen, which seemed to produce but little benefit. This induced me again

to bleed: accordingly, ten ounces more blood were removed, with considerable alleviation of the patient's suffering.—August 3, much pain is present; ten ounces more of blood were abstracted, and febrifuge and purgative medicines were administered; which last procured copious evacuations. August 4th. The disease seems so far reduced that only slight sensations of an unpleasant kind exist: the sudorific plan continued. On the 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, and 9th of August, the patient continued recovering. August 10th, febrifuges and slight tonics were prescribed. August 12th, the extract of Peruvian bark, with the carbonate of Ammonia, was administered. August 13th and 14th. Still mending, although slight occasional grinding pains occurred. August 15th. He found her with the whole train of symptoms, in consequence of having taken brandy. The inference is obvious, as the relapse came on in two or three hours after drinking two table-spoonsful of the spirit; and, indeed, pain was felt immediately after that unfortunate, though commonly resorted to, potation of nurses. The case was now one of fearful issue, in consequence of the reduced state of the patient. Leeches were applied to the abdomen; and as there had been no free passage through the bowels, a few grains of calomel were given, followed by a saline aperient draught. This combination, with a laxative clyster, sufficiently unloaded the bowels. The sudorific plan was persisted in, and a large blister applied over the whole belly. The latter remedy induced most distressing stranguary, which easily yielded to hot applications and diluents of a mucilaginous kind. After this treament the inflammatory symptoms abated, and the patient rapidly advanced to perfect convalescence. It is very evident, says Mr. Olney, that this case was the milder form of puerperal fever, termed *sporadic*, yet there were symptoms of a typhoid condition, which, with the foregoing account, would present an analogy of such closeness, as to suggest that the success of a plan in the one case, would indicate its propriety in the other; although of course it must be early resorted to: and it would appear that this case tends to shew the futility of attempting to reduce medical reasoning to mathematical accuracy, as is the case in some treatises, by laying down as an axiom, "that what will not prevent will not cure;" from the observation that profuse hæmorrage from the uterus, during labour, has not prevented subsequent puerperal fever; therefore bleeding, it is said, cannot avail in cure. It was the opinion of a late eminent surgeon in London, that bleeding would not prevent inflammation.

COW-POX.—The Royal College of Surgeons have circulated advertisements expressive of their unshaken confidence in the security *cow-pox* affords against small-pox contagion. They even assert, that the failures which have occurred, have convinced them more satisfactorily of the antivariolous powers of cow-pox. Those masters of the College would do right to read more, and think less for themselves. Cases of small-pox after cow-pox have occurred to such an extent within the last six years, that we have not even acknowledged the receipt of those that have been sent to us, in our notice to correspondents. In the course of the last month, many failures have occurred in Brentford, Hounslow, and Isleworth. At

Hounslow, two young men, apparently in the possession of rude health the day before they were attacked with the variolous fever, fell a sacrifice to confluent small-pox after vaccination. In the neighbourhood of Brentford, we have this day met with a case of small-pox in a young woman, who had been vaccinated five or six years ago. All the cases of small-pox we have met with, subsequent to cow-pox, have been very mild; the eruption seldom advancing to complete maturation; but in every instance the febrile symptoms, and particularly the affection of the head, have run considerably higher in those who had been, than those who had not been, vaccinated; and in one instance, we believe, the life of the patient was saved by the use of the warm bath. Cow-pox unquestionably mitigates the eruptive stage of small-pox: why the fever preceding should run higher in a person who has been vaccinated, we shall leave our scientific College of Surgeons to determine; after the lectures which have been lately read to them by Abernethy and Wilson, on immaterialism and a future state, they will, no doubt, decide conscientiously.

BRIGHTON MEDICAL ARTS.—With the following instance of the humane and disinterested attention of an apothecary in Brighton to a stranger, we are well acquainted. The wife of a respectable tradesman of Oxford Street, during a visit to a friend in Brighton, ordered, at the shop of an apothecary, an emulsion for a cough: the apothecary called on her the following morning, to enquire if the medicine had had its desired effect. After a short conversation on the symptoms of her complaint, he entered into a long dissertation on the chylopoietic functions, *à la mode* Abernethy, to persuade her that the cough was only symptomatic of a diseased liver, or, as Doctor James Johnson would term it, hepatico-pulmonic sympathy. The lady, supposing that the learned gentleman's opinion was correct, agreed to place herself under his care. A box, containing three calomel pills, and three pints of the decoction of the woods, was accordingly sent, to be taken in the course of twelve hours. This treatment, after daily entreaty, she continued for a fortnight, when, the gums and throat being affected by the mercury, she was allowed to omit the mercurial pills. A gargle now became necessary, which was sent in phials, containing only two ounces. The three pints of decoction of the woods were sent daily, with three gargles. Her general health having declined considerably, or rather, alarmingly, her friend thought it right to acquaint her husband with her situation. After the receipt of the intelligence, he lost no time in visiting her. Soon after his arrival, he waited on the apothecary, who, by technicalities, or Johnsonian verbosity, endeavoured to persuade him that her cough was merely a symptom of a very formidable disease of the liver, and that he had only proportioned the treatment to the nature of the disease. He complained of the small quantity of gargle he sent to her daily, and took with him a pint bottle.

The lady's health continuing to decline, he requested an eminent physician of Lewis, then in Brighton, to see her. This gentleman emphatically declared, that the liver was not affected; and that the cough was primarily a slight catarrhal affection, and that the apothecary was either an ignoramus or a knave. "Such *pitiful* practices,"

said he, "are by no means uncommon in this town." The apothecary's treatment was accordingly discontinued, and under an opposite one she gained strength; but it is feared that her constitution has suffered so materially by the exhibition of mercury, &c., that she will continue an invalid for the remainder of her days. The gentleman has favoured us with the apothecary's original bill, which amounts only to seventeen pounds. Each box of pills, containing three pills, is charged only *three shillings*. The pint gargle he took with him is charged as six gargles—only fifteen shillings. For these articles no apothecary in London would charge more than four shillings and sixpence, The humane and conscientious apothecary, by way of hint, makes a memorandum at the bottom of the bill of attendance. The very liberal conduct of the medical gentlemen of Brighton has, no doubt, operated greatly in favour of that place, as a retreat for invalids.

AMPUTATION OF THE FEMALE BREAST.—Dr. James Johnson has prevailed on a Dr. Kennedy, of Dunnin, to communicate to the Medical Repository, "an account of the *extirpation* of a female breast, without the ligature of a single artery being necessary." Dr. Johnson introduces the case in his peculiar flowery phraseological style. "Pathological phenomena," says this medico-chirurgical phenomenon, "*sometimes* come under observation of the *practical* surgeon, which, though possessing no *higher* claim to attention than the circumstance of *their* exemplifying deviations from the *natural* tenor of THINGS, are nevertheless worthy of being *commemorated* in the repositories of *chirurgical philosophy*."!!! After removing the diseased part of the breast in the usual way, Dr. Kennedy was surprised to find that the branches of the divided arteries were so small, as not to require a ligature. His astonishment on this occasion, proves that he has seldom seen the operation performed. It is not one case out of twenty that requires the use of a ligature; and we have heard Mr. Abernethy say, that he "has never found it necessary to apply a ligature after the extirpation of the mammary gland."

If Dr. Uwins continue to admit such communications, he will soon enable his coadjutor, Dr. Palmer, of Tamworth, to add to his valuable "contributions on morbid anatomy," a scientific description of the *lesion* which terminated the death of the Medical Repository. Such an event will afford an admirable opportunity to Dr. James Johnson, to exercise his poetico-pathetico-verbose powers, in writing an epitaph to its memory.

CORN.—M. Cadet de Vaux has lately recommended, as an important and useful innovation, the reaping of corn before it is perfectly ripe. This practice originated with M. Salles, of the Agricultural Society of Beziers. Grain thus reaped (say eight days before it is ripe) is not only fuller and larger, but never attacked by the weevil.

These facts were established by reaping one half of a piece of corn field, as recommended, and leaving the other till the usual time. The early reaped portion gave a hectolitre of corn more, for half a hectar of land than the later reaped. An equal quantity of flour from each, was made into bread: that from the corn reaped when green, gave seven pounds of bread more than the other in six decalitres. The weevil attacked the ripe corn, but

not the green. The proper time for reaping is when the grain, pressed between the fingers, has a doughy appearance, like crumb of bread just hot from the oven, when pressed in the same way.

Major General Beatson has proved, on a farm of 300 acres, at Knowle, Tunbridge Wells, since the year 1813, that by light or shallow ploughing, on a stiff soil, with one horse, without lime or dung, and without fallow, he can raise crops of wheat, and other grain, at the expence of five pounds an acre, equal or superior to the crops of his neighbours at sixteen pounds an acre, in lime and labour of cattle.

WHITE PAINT.—M. Thenard has applied an oxigenated water, with great effect, for the purpose of restoring the white in paint. The whites are often rendered brown, or even black, where paintings are acted on by sulphurous vapours, especially by sulphurised hydrogen, which is very abundant in some situations. Recollecting that the oxygenate water converted black sulphurate of lead into a white sulphate, he furnished an artist, who wished to restore a design of Raphael's, with some of it. By applying it with a pencil, the spots were instantly removed.

FRUIT TREES.—Horse dung, clay, sand, and the tar of coals, (which may be obtained at a very cheap rate of any gas company), form a composition, which, when applied to the trunks and stems of fruit trees, after being cleaned, prevents that spontaneous exudation, called gumming, which impoverishes trees.

EDUCATION.—Sirs,—Having observed, in the 56th Number of your Gazette of Health, a letter signed Jane W. reprobating the injudicious methods employed to enforce diligence and good behaviour in public schools; I confess I was not a little surprised to find an individual, with all the marks of an informed mind that Dominus P. *displays* in his letters, standing up as the advocate of a mode of correction deservedly losing ground, if not altogether discontinued, in every respectable seminary.

In order to shew that this writer has not given the subject that attention which it deserves,—that he has not considered the matter in its collateral or remote influences, it will only be necessary to refer to some passages in his last letter.

In page 72, he promises to adduce an instance of the fool's-cap punishment, administered and persevered in *with judgment:* how he has kept his promise will appear from the following extract.

A young lady (we are told) is placed by her mother under the care of a schoolmistress, whose *husband*, in order to correct the pupil's overbearing pride and haughtiness, and oblige her to pay attention to her tasks, exposes her to the ridicule excited by placing a fool's-cap on her head; and after some time, finding her still obstinate, proceeds to tie her hands and *feet*, and expose her under these disgraceful circumstances at the parlour window.—But let him speak for himself:—

"Miss is now introduced to the window, with her hands and feet tied, and a large fool's-cap on her head; five minutes more are allowed, by which time the first lesson was to be repeated, or the parlour window would be thrown wide open. Now this girl, for the first

time, found herself humbled, and began to dread punishment; five minutes were allowed for another portion of her lesson, at the expiration of which time *another pupil would be placed by her side, and become her herald, to proclaim, when any person passed by, the cause of her disgrace!*"

Now if I were to grant in argument, what I must deny in truth, that such treatment could be productive of beneficial effects to the degraded pupil, what are we to say of its influence on the pupil who is made the herald of her crime? If she had one dormant spark of malice, would not such an office blow it into flame? Are we, for the purpose of humbling one pupil, to fill another with malignant triumph? Or are we, on the other hand, to expose her to the resentment that young people feel, not only to the instruments, but even the witnesses of their punishment and disgrace? For my part, if I had pupils, I would endeavour to excite and encourage an amiable feeling of concern for the sufferer, and cement an affectionate regard among them by occasionally attending to their intercession for an offender, so far from making one of them the ostensible instrument of another's punishment. As for the bearer of the fool's-cap, I must say that the *schoolmistress's husband* tying her hands and *feet*, was the grossest outrage on decency; and his obliging her to proclaim herself a stupid disobedient dunce, whilst she was, doubtless, convinced to the contrary, was compelling her to publish a falsehood, whatever might have been the fact. If this, indeed, were the general practice, we might well exclaim with Dominus P. O tempora! O mores! But, Sirs, I am perfectly agreed with Eliza J. that this is not the custom in well-regulated boarding schools; it is only among an inferior class of teachers that such practices are allowed; no delicate mother would permit the indecent exposure of her daughter that Dominus P. mentions.

If this gentleman's experiments on his own pupils were conducted with *as little* judgment, we need no longer wonder at the want of success he complains of. Supposing, however, that they were carried on with the greatest wisdom and ability, and the result was, that after two months' trial, one or more individuals were found to have resisted the best concerted measures themselves, and to have spread corruption amongst those otherwise well disposed, (for such is the report he gives;) this does not furnish an argument against changing his system of "thrashing," (page 713) but against the promiscuous intercourse of pupils—against schools in general.

Dominus P. has shewn his sagacity in discovering from Mrs. Jane W.'s opinions, what he might have collected from her statements concerning herself—that she is no teacher; and then, with all the superiority of experience, asserts, that if she were she would see the impossibility of dispensing with corporeal punishment, and the fool's-cap. But though Mrs. W. may not be a teacher, the opinions of those that were are still on record. And, indeed, as this gentleman has, in order to establish his own opinion, cited the authority of a writer, who lived in the very infancy of society, when the sum of human knowledge was comparatively small, and attainable by a moderate share of talent and industry; he cannot object to my sup-

porting the contrary by the authority of one who lived in a state of society more analogous to our own, and had all the means of forming a correct judgment that talents and *experience* can afford.

The amiable and elegant Quintilian, to whom I allude, thus expresses himself on that subject:—"Cædi vero discentes quanquam et receptum sit, et Chrysippus non improbet, minime velim. Primum quia deforme atque servile est: et certe quod convenit, si ætatem mutes, injuria: deinde quod si cui est mens tam illiberalis, ut objurgatione non corrigatur, is etiam ad plagas, ut pessima quæque mancipia, durabitur: postremo quod ne opus quidem erit hac castigatione, si assiduus studiorum exactor adstiterit." And Locke to the same purpose observes, "The usual, lazy, and short way, by chastisement and the rod, which is the only instrument of government that tutors generally know or even think of, is the most unfit of any to be used in education." Such are the writers that have the misfortune to differ in opinion from your learned correspondent!

But Dominus P. has not only experience, information, and zeal, but he has, moreover, a great fund of wit! (See his account of Miss Stone, a lady of twelve years of age, and his manner of accounting for Eliza J.'s antipathy to a fool's-cap, p. 711.) Wit, however, or the affectation of wit, is a dangerous quality, and has, on this occasion, placed Dominus P. in a very ridiculous situation; for intending to pay an ironical compliment to Mrs. Jane W. on her discovery of "the Misses Moore's school, where every requisite is combined," he has unwittingly "troubled" the Editors with a few sarcasms on a school of *their* own recommendation! (see page 623.)

To conclude, Sirs, it is quite preposterous, that a person with such perverted notions of decency, and such erroneous ideas on education, should affect to be severe and witty on others, who have come forward with the most praiseworthy feelings to consider a subject of the first importance to the rising generation.

I should not have troubled you with this long epistle, but that Dominus P. has threatened to submit a regular system in future numbers; and I would wish him, for the sake of the public, to revise his opinions, and weigh his own qualifications, before he trespass too far on the indulgence of a Magazine, whose respectable character and wide circulation may give sanction and extent to errors in the education of youth, which I will be bold to say will prove irretrievable in each particular instance in which they may be adopted.

Dublin, November 16th, 1820. QUINTUS.

ESSENCE OF PEARL.—This *chemical* preparation, the proprietor states, in his advertisement of its wonderful virtues, is the discovery of the late Mr. Jacob Hemmet, Dentist to the Royal Family, and is now made by Mr. Scarman his successor. "The essence, with the *pearl* dentifrice, removes *every* complaint incident to the teeth and gums, and therefore," says Mr. Hemmet, (in his Dissertation on its virtues, published in the year 1778) "I am fully entitled to recommend their general use in *preference* to any other preparation for the purpose." He adds, "the great balsamic qualities contained in the essence, and in the pearl dentifrice, are

found most certainly to preserve the teeth from decay, to prevent those injured from becoming worse, shield them against *all* putrefaction, fasten such as are loose, and make the foulest become white and beautiful. The constant use of them, according to the following directions, will entirely preserve the enamel, and render the breath delicately sweet." The learned dentist gratuitously gives the following advice for preserving the teeth:—"Always let the teeth be perfectly picked after eating, between the teeth, and in very cavity, with a quill tooth-pick, which is preferable to any other; afterwards rince the mouth with a little water, made about milk-warm; or if you have an *opportunity* to add a *little of the essence*, it will be so much the better. The cracking of nuts, or drawing of corks, with the teeth, should be carefully avoided, as they often prove very detrimental, by breaking the enamel of the teeth, or loosening them in their sockets. Nothing should be ate or drank very hot; *particularly*, care should be taken that your *coffee*, *tea*, and *chocolate*, be only moderately warm, for as, in general, *sugar* is drank with those liquids, the heat makes the sugar doubly corrosive; all things, likewise, that are cold, such as ice-cream, &c., should be taken with caution, for they stop the circulation of the fluids in the teeth, and become thereby detrimental." The dentist's advice, of "perfectly picking between the teeth and every cavity, after a meal," is condemned by all modern writers. A tooth-pick is necessary only when the article cannot be removed by using the mouth, with lukewarm water, which is always proper after a meal.

On examining this essence, we find it to be composed of camphor, mastic, alcohol, oil of amber, and water. There is some traces of myrrh; but the oil of amber predominating, we cannot say, for certainty, that it enters the composition. The proportion of alcohol is too small to dissolve the resinous gum and oil; and hence the pretended essence has a milky appearance, on which account, we presume, the inventor gave it the name of essence of *pearl*; for, with respect to the component parts, it is as much entitled to the name of essence of virgin gold (which Dr. Solomon says, forms the basis of his Balm of Gilead), as to that of essence of pearl. On what principle the learned dentist employed this lotion to preserve the teeth, we are at a loss to conjecture. Being a stimulant, in our humble opinion, by keeping up irritation in the gums, it is more to do mischief than good. More teeth have been destroyed by tincture of myrrh, than any other application; which, diluted with water, is very similar, in every respect, to the pretended essence of pearl. Nothing tends more to destroy the vitality of the teeth, or to render them unhealthy, than irritation or inflammatory action in the gums. The best lotion for preserving the teeth, is a vegetable astringent, which, by constringing the blood-vessels of the gums, prevents that spongy state, which is generally attributed to scurvy, but which, in fact, arises from irritation and relaxation of the vessels. As an astringent lotion for the gums, the simple tincture of rhatany root, diluted with water, is the best with which we are acquainted.

The contents of a 2*s*. 9*d*. bottle, cost the maker about 4*d*., and the bottle, stamp, &c. 1*s*.—The pearl dentifrice we shall notice in our next number.

N° 49, *To January 1st*, 1820,

PRICE ONE SHILLING.

THE MONTHLY
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OR,

Popular Medical, Dietetic,

AND

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EDITED BY

DR. RICHARD REECE,

Of London,

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LONDON:—Published by Sherwood & Co. Paternoster-Row; Simpkin & Marshall, Stationers' Court; and sold by all Booksellers

The Mineral Water sent by an "Old Subscriber" at Gloucester, the Editor found to be very weakly impregnated with the Sulphates of Magnesia and Sulphate of Soda.—It is free from Iron and Sulphuret. It is much too weak to answer any medicinal purpose.

"If Mr. Gall," of Woodbridge, will point out an error in the article in which he alludes, the Editors will cheerfully correct it. The mediums they attended at the shop of a respectable vender, and therefore they considered it to be genuine.

"An Old Subscriber" at Liverpool is informed, that the Depilatory Nostrums the Editors have examined, are solutions of pure Potash. Quick Lime, with pure Potash, is used as a depilatory by some Surgeons, and in the East Indies, quick Lime alone. The pure Potash is so destructive to the vitality of Hairs, that even a weak solution of it often succeeds in eradicating them.

The Editors will comply with the request of an "Old Subscriber," respecting Arnott's Dilator in the Supplement to the present Number, which will be published about the 15th of January.

"J. M. F." will find that the Editors have attended to his suggestion.

"A. B." is advised to read with attention the articles on Inoculation in the 4th and 5th Numbers, to take Dr. Hutchinson's Tonic Mixture noticed in a late Number; and take a grain of the Iron Pill every other night for the course of a fortnight.

"Mrs. M." will, very probably, derive benefit from the occasional Tincture of Cubebs in camomile tea.

"C. T." will find, by an article in the present Number, that the Editors have not been "intimidated by threats or ridicule" before, to relinquish the execution of a promise respecting the Spa Dispensary." They beg to assure him, also no considerations will ever induce them to abandon that which they consider to be [illegible] to the public.

"A. P." "A wretched Youth." "Synnax," and "T. S." will find the information they require in the Appendix to the [illegible]

To CORRESPONDENTS—*continued.*

For the hints of "Clericus" the Editors are thankful. They intend to apply to Mr. Clough, of Norton-street, for his *original* views of Quackery.

The proffered information of "J. K." will be very acceptable.

On referring to the additional sheet for Advertisements, a "Subscriber" will find the Address of Messrs. Wollaston and Co. The Editors assure him that he may place the most implicit confidence in the Wine or Spirit obtained from that quarter.

To "L.L.S." of Northamptonshire, the Editors return their warmest thanks for a very friendly letter. If the table of contents of each number were to be given on the first page, and each article displayed with a head and an address to the Editors, according to the plan of other Journals, the Editors would be under the necessity of omitting much matter for the want of room. As to the type, a variety is employed only when it is necessary to make use of a small one, in order to bring in an article which will not admit of being curtailed. A Table of Contents is given on white paper, in the first sheet of every Volume, and a general Index to every Third Volume, Three Vols. comprising a series. It is only on the cover of a Reprint that a Table of Contents is not given. The present plan the Editors adopt for the purpose of making their Work a *Medium to Parents.* His receipt for Ulcers, Burns, Scalds, and Cuts, (to which he might have added chilblains) was not received in time to appear in the present Number.

The following Communications are intended for early Insertion:—

The Testimony of "Medicus" in favour of the Discutient Plaster—The effects of Spirit of Turpentine in Puerperal Fever—Mr. Thackway's economical and healthy Diet for Children—The Juice of the Crab Apple, by "Clericus"—Dr. Pemberton's Case of Tic Doloureux—Proper Breakfast for Patients subject to Asthma and Winter Cough—Medical Calumny—Medical Excursions to Gloucester, Worcester, Cheltenham, Chepstow, Hereford, Colchester, Norwich, Margate, &c.—The Case of a Dispensary Patient—On Irritation, Indigestion, Animal Magnetism—Medical Consultation over the dying Young Outang—Dr. Chevasse on the state of Medicine in England—Effect of Tar in Tic Doloureux—Prescriptions—*&c. &c.*

*** Communications, and Letters of Consultation (which are answered gratuitously) are to be addressed (Postage paid) to the Editors, No. 171, Piccadilly.

REMARKS

ON

THE HISTORY AND PHILOSOPH

AND PARTICULARLY

THE MEDICAL EFFICACY

OF

Electricity,

In the Cure of Nervous and Chronic Disorders, and variou
Affections, as Blindness, Deafness, &c. Illustrated w
new and striking cases.

ALSO,

OBSERVATIONS ON GALVAN

And on electrical Substitutes for mercurial Remedies, in Ob
and Venereal Complaints.

By M. LA BEAUME,

Member of the Surgeon, Electrician, F.L.S. &c.

Printed and Published by E. Wood, 191 Gt. Portland Street
(near the Queen's Theatre), Sold by Simpkin and Marshall
Newman, Cornhill; Callow, Crown Court, Princes St. Soho
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London: Printed by Thomas Davison, Lombard-street.

To CORRESPONDENTS—*continued.*

"Sarah" is referred to the Supplement, in which her case is noticed.

The Editors have complied with the request of "J. Daman" in the present Number. They recommend him to give the Bengal Aperient Pills a trial.

The Editors return their thanks to a "Baronet and Others," for their intimations. They have omitted the sheet of Select Advertisements, although a source of emolument; that no person shall have it in their power to say, that they have ever made such use of the *Gazette of Health*.

☞ The Editors postponed the publication of the Supplement on Strictures, &c., in consequence of a work being announced on it, by a Surgeon, in London. It will be ready to accompany the next Number.

The favour of "Chemicus" is intended for the next Number; as are also effects of Spirit of Turpentine in Puerperal Fever—Mr. Thackwray's System of Diet for Children—"Chemicus" on the Juice of the Crab Apple—Breakfast for Asthmatics—Medical Calumny—Remarks on the Humane Society—Case of a Dispensary Patient—Treatment of Superveritative Indigestion—Dr. Clarkson on English Medicine, &c &c—"H." receipt for making Lunarium, &c.

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Affections of the Head & Chest,

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From the great frequency of these distressing and dangerous affections at this season, and the great benefit those have received who have used the Cures; and the distress and anxiety attending most of them having been so speedily removed; and by the repeated requests of numbers of those who were so benefitted, that they should be made publicly known; Mr. PAYNE, Pneumatic Chemist, No. 120, *New Bond Street*, between 119 and 121, (there being two numbers 120,) considers it his duty to state, that Inflammations of the Chest and Lungs, Coughs, Recent Colds, Tough Phlegm, Asthmas, Spitting of Blood, Night Perspirations, and Nervous Complaints, are most effectually treated by the Cures.

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Printed and Published by J. Wilcox, Bull Inn Passage, Lon Close, near to extra number Bell at Holborn, and Mr. Hatchard, Piccadilly; Callow, Princes Street, Hanover Sq and all other booksellers.

GENUINE COFFEE WAREHOUSE, 8 Old Bond Street.—The attention of the Public is most very respectfully solicited to this Establishment, an which was commenced in 1815, by Messrs. Jones & Co with the West End of Town, for the sole purpose of supplying the consumer with Coffee, so superior to what could only be obtained at the Coffee Houses in the general Metropolis, that the above Gentlemen confidently appeal to the public for a continuance of their favours, in the assurance that a trial will be sufficient to prove the superiority of its quality over that now

N°. 51, *To March 1st*, 1820.

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LONDON:—Published by Sherwood & Co. Paternoster Row; Simpkin & Marshall, Stationers' Court; and sold by all Booksellers in Town and Country.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The Editors return their thanks to Mr. W——s of D——
for his communication respecting yellow fever, and of
for similar mention, which are intended for the next
They advise his friend to make use of the compound
powder, or take the Bengal aperient pills in case of
and to apply cold water to the forehead every morning
of a mayfair. If his digestion be bad, he may take
spoonful of tincture of camomile, with seventy-five
spirit of sal volatile, in a glass of water, two or three
The Editors recommend their Friend at Hull, to
recently recommended in the last seven numbers, for
a trial, and to rub the parts affected with hot
them spirit of wine, or cold spring water, until
likely to prove beneficial.
The case of "C. A. M." of Bristol, is clearly one of
nature. The Editors advise him to take five grains of
pound calomel every night for a week, and take two
the compound tincture of bark, as a quarter of a pint
pound decoction of sarsaparilla, two

To CORRESPONDENTS—*continued.*

The case of "M——," of Norwich, is very common. The Editors advise him to make use of a suspensory, to take occasionally a blue pill every other night, and the tonic mixture he states he is taking. After persisting in the use of the latter a fortnight, he may acquaint them with the effects of the treatment. The use of wine and spirits they disapprove. The diet should be plain. Exercise and cold bathing are also proper.

If the Correspondent who inclosed to the Editors an advertisement of "A Medical Board," will furnish them with some facts respecting the proprietors, they will insert them. His information, that the Editors have sanctioned them, is without any foundation; they, nor any person have been authorised by the Editors, to make use of their names. The assertion, that the Editors are *afraid* to expose them, they flatter themselves, is not supported by their pages, for in no case have they evinced any thing like timidity or pusillanimity. The case is, they know none of the company to expose: and if he does, why not come forward, like a man, with his real name, and do it himself? Our pages are open to him; or, if he be "afraid to attack them unfairly," the Editors will promise not to give up his name, if he will favour them with a communication respecting the said Society, or any species of quackery that he may point out.

"C. S," of Worcestershire, will find the information he solicits in the supplement, which will be published in a few weeks.

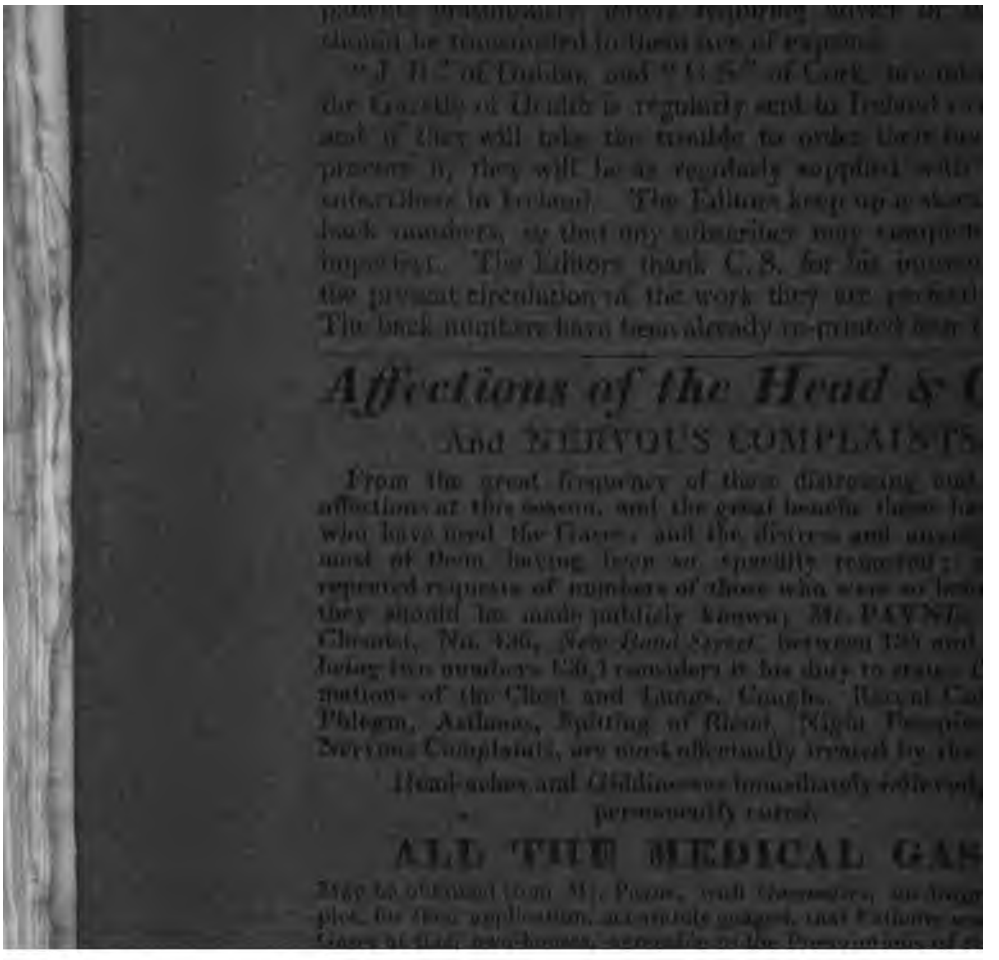
The Editors acquaint a "regular Subscriber," that the article employed by chemists, for the purpose specified in his letter, is weak originated muriatic acid.

"J. Dumas" will find an account of the Seeds Pill in the present number. It was omitted in the last for want of room.

The Editors acquaint "Rector," that they have lately met with a case of baldness, in which the growth of hair was accelerated by an application of electric sparks to the part.

The following communications have been omitted, to make room for the cases of the late King, the Duke of Kent, Duke of Berry, and an analysis of Mr. Accum's Work on the Adulteration of articles of Diet:—

"Chemicus," on Heat and Light—"Electros," on the Juice of the Crab Apple—Dr. Thackray, on a System of Diet for Children—Breakfast for Asthmatics—Remedy for Puerperal Fever—Popular remedies used in Russia—Remedy for the Human Species—Medical Calumny—Case of a Dispensary Nurse—Hr. Bridges for Godfrey's Laudanum—Mr. [illegible] s-



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N°. 52, *To April 1st*, 1820,

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THE MONTHLY
Gazette of Health,

OR,

Popular Medical, Dietetic,

AND

PHILOSOPHICAL JOURNAL.

EDITED BY

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

If the intelligent "Lydia" should require any further account of the meadow saffron than the present number contains, the Editors will be very happy to give it.

The Editors advise "T. F. L." to take an alterative pill, composed of one grain of calomel, one grain of the precipitated sulphuret of antimony, and four grains of extract of hemlock, every night for the course of a week; and two tea-spoonfuls of a mixture of the saturated tincture of cubebs, and paregoric elixir (equal parts), twice a day, in a decoction of Iceland liverwort, for a fortnight, when the Editors advise him to acquaint them with their effects, and his address, that they may send him further directions before their next number is published.

If a "Subscriber" at Brighton will favour the Editors with *authentic* memoirs of certain physicians and surgeons, they will, with pleasure, insert them. The present number contains a sketch of one of the Brighton physicians.

"W. R. N——y" is advised to take four grains of the blue pill every other night for a fortnight, and two tea-spoonfuls of the following drops twice a day, in a glass of peppermint water:—

Take of Tincture of Columbo Root, one and a-half ounce;
Solution of sub-carbonate of Soda, two drachms.

Mix. From vital air he would derive no benefit. In case the bowels should not be relieved daily, or if giddiness take place, he should also take fifteen grains of the compound colocynth pill (in three pills) twice a week.

The Editors advise a "Staffordshire Subscriber" to consult Mr. Wright, aurist, of Henrietta Street, Covent Garden. This he may do by letter.

"E. N—s—" would do right to discontinue his habit of smoking, and to take a tea-spoonful of the following drops twice a day in a wine-glass of water:

Take of Tincture of Cascarilla, half an ounce;
Tincture of Henbane, two drachms;
Solution of Subcarbonate of Potass, 3 drachms.—Mix.

He may also take a tea-spoonful (or two) of the Epsom Salts dissolved in a tumbler of water, so as to operate on the bowels every day. Cold bathing will also be proper.

The case of "R. A. O." is evidently herpes communicating with the urethra. The Editors advise him to consult the most experienced surgeon on the spot, or to come to London. By the use of a hollow bougee, and a trifling operation, he may be cured.

The night pills "J. H. S." is in the habit of taking, are very likely to produce piles. The Editors advise him to take three or four tea-spoonsful of the following mixture every morning, or twice a day, so as to produce one or two copious evacuations from the intestines daily:—

TO CORRESPONDENTS—*continued.*

He may also take every night for a week, four grains of the blue pill. The Editors suspect that the state of the limbs, bowels, &c. arise from a determination of blood to the head. He should, in that case, keep the feet warm by the use of flannel socks, and apply cold water, by means of a napkin, to his head every morning. His mode of living is proper. Exercise after dinner is improper. The bandage should not be kept tight, particularly after dinner.

"J. Thomas" may take two tea-spoonsful of the following drops, twice or thrice a day, in a wine-glassful of the decoction of marshmallow root.

Take of the Compound Tincture of Rhatany Root, or
Huxham's Tincture of Bark, 2 ounces;
Tincture of Cinnamon Bark, 1 ounce;
Dilute Sulphuric Acid, 1 drachm. Mix.

"E. T." is advised to give his wife two or three table-spoonsful of the following mixture, two or three times a day, so as to obviate costiveness.

Take of Infusion of Roses, (L.P.) 8 ounces;
Sulphate of Magnesia, 6 drachms;
Tincture of Cascarilla, 6 drachms. Mix.

They assure him the tumours in the neck are of no consequence; a tea-spoonful of the flowers of sulphur, taken every morning, either in milk or mixed with honey, will probably restore him to health.—He may also take a wine-glassful of camomile tea (cold) twice a day.

The Editors recommend "M. G." to consent to the removal of the tumours by ligature; till that is done he will receive no benefit from medicine. The operation is simple and not painful. The Editors will answer the queries of "E. F." by post, in the course of a few days.

"*Amicus Scientiæ*" will find, in the present Number, a further account of the Currian System. They will be happy to receive any assistance from his pen, in their attempts to promote medical science.

The Editors thank "A. B." of Liverpool, and "C. S. W." of York, for their hints. They are not sensible of neglecting to give every publicity to their work within their power; it is advertised every month in the leading papers of London, and in the best provincial papers. To give it further publicity they must therefore depend on the recommendation of those Subscribers who approve of their labours. They beg to assure them that the sale of it very far exceeds their expectation.

Wright on Nervous Deafness, Clarke's Advice to Mothers, Baron on Tubercles, Case of Consumption cured by the Prussic Acid, &c. &c. &c. &c. are intended for the next Number.

---

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No. 53, *To May 1st*, 1820.

PRICE ONE SHILLING.

THE MONTHLY
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OR

Popular Medical Diretic,

AND

PHILOSOPHICAL JOURNAL.

EDITED BY

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TO CORRESPONDENTS—*continued*.

not succeed in restoring him to health, he may send them another statement of the history, &c. of his complaint.

"F. G. M." is advised to take two or three tea-spoonsful of Harrowgate salt, dissolved in half-a-pint of water, two or three times a week.

The Editors will pay early attention to the request of "Unknown." The Institution to which he alludes, is a quack concern.

To their "Friend" at Huntingdon, the Editors return their sincere thanks.—His valuable letter will appear in their next Number.

The Editors advise "W. D." to take a tea-spoonful of pure magnesia, every night in a tea-cupful of the decoction of dried marshmallow roots (foreign), and a pint of the decoction at intervals, every day.—He should also make use of distilled water in all his articles of diet.

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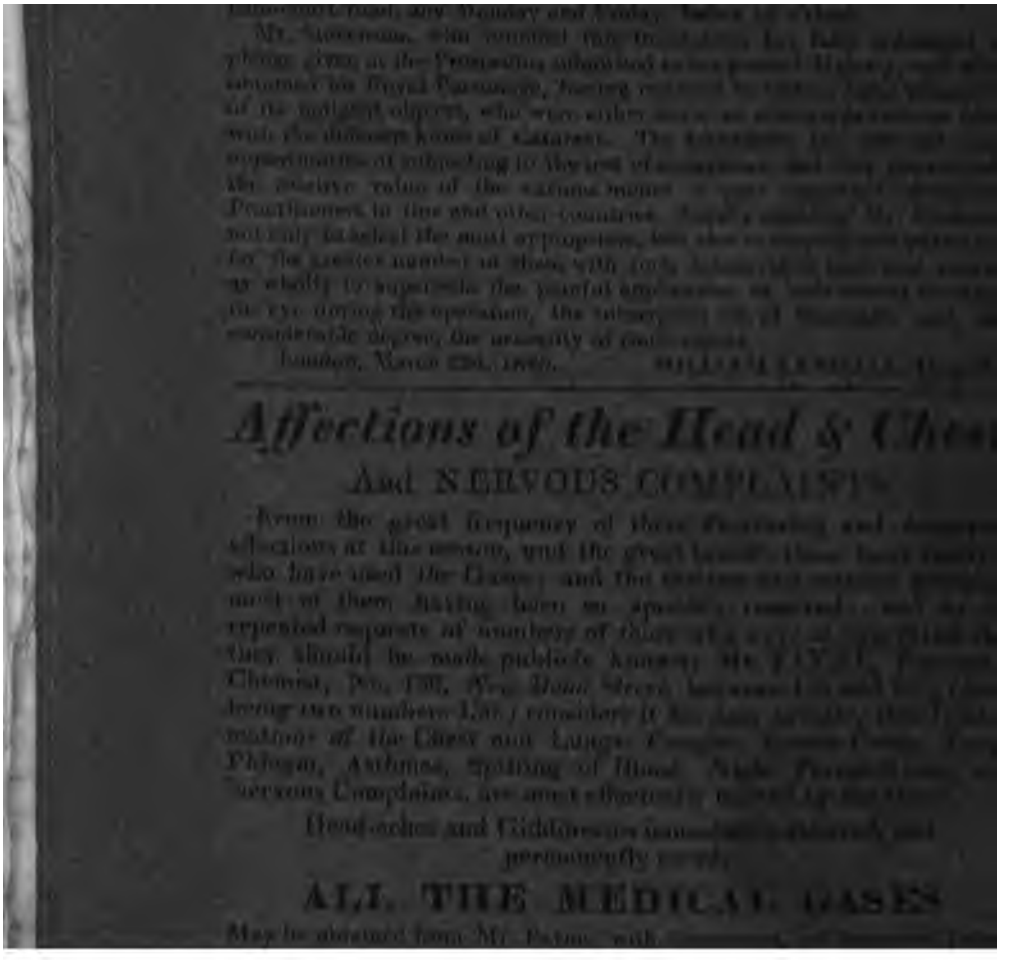

N°. 54, *To June 1st*, 1820,

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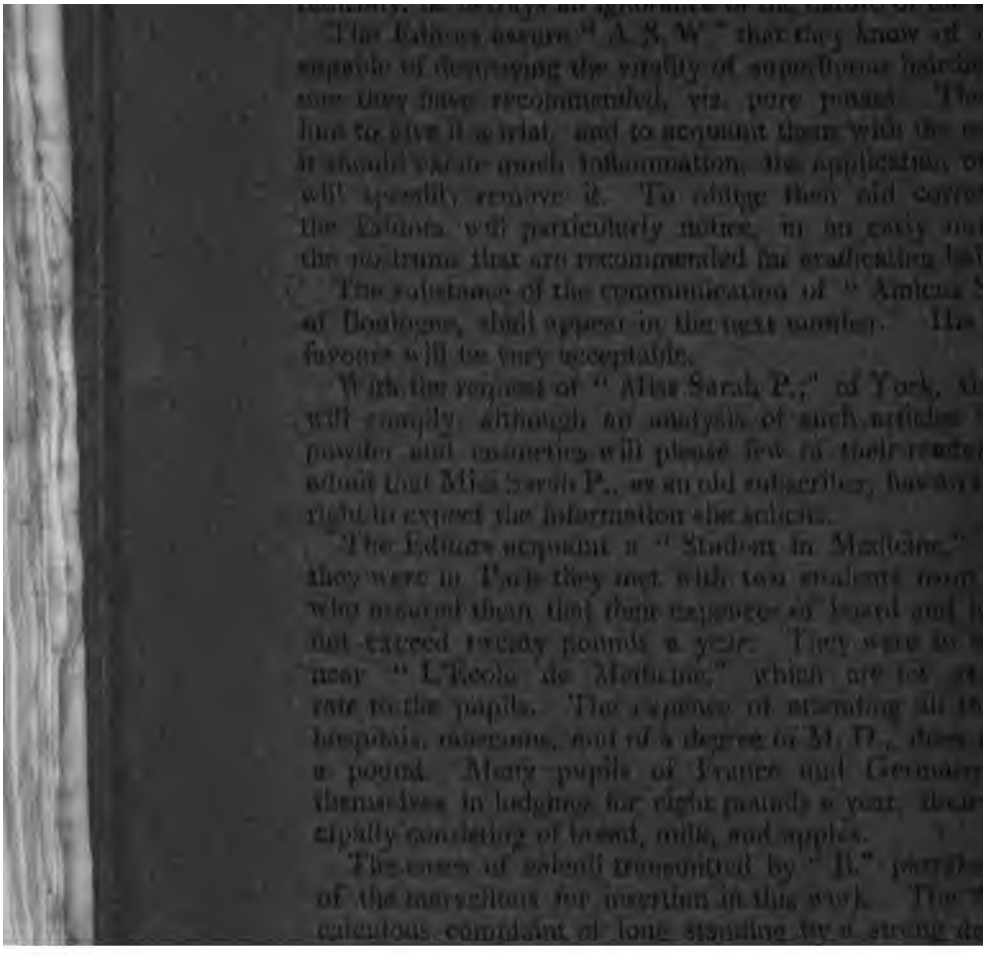

TO CORRESPONDENTS—*continued.*

An Old "Subscriber" at Gloucester, is advised to give his friend afflicted with jaundice, a grain of prepared calomel, with four of Extract of Hemlock, twice a day, till the gums are tender, and three table-spoonful of an Infusion of Dandelion, three times a day. If the bowels should not be relieved every day, from fifteen to twenty grains of Rhubarb may be administered occasionally. In case of pain in the region of the liver, he may apply a blister over it. He should avoid fermented liquors and acids.

"D. M." of Chelsea, will probably receive considerable relief from the topical application of the Colchicum Liniment. He may likewise take four grains of the blue Pill, every other night for a fortnight, and two tea-spoonsful of the Alcalised Tincture of Fumitory three times a day, in a wine-glass of water, or Dr Hutchinson's Tonic Mixture, noticed in an early Number.

The request of a "Friend" respecting yeast, shall be attended to.

The medicine of a German Physician sent by "J. H." is Dilute Sulphuric Acid, coloured with Cochineal.

The disease of the child of "W. M. P.", the Editors suspect to be Rickets. He should keep the bowels in a regular state, by administering occasionally three grains of Rhubarb Powder with one of prepared calomel; and with a view of strengthening the system, a table spoonful of a cold Infusion of Rhubarb Root, or Peruvian Bark, in lime water, twice a day. These remedies, with exercise in the open air, and friction over the bowels and the affected parts of the limbs every night and morning, and immersion in cold water twice a week, will probably restore it to health. Fermented liquors and acid fruit are improper.

The intimation of "Clericus" will be attended to in an early Number. The Editors return him their best thanks for a receipt for Hooping Cough, &c.

"N. T." of Manchester, is advised to take three of the following pills twice a day, with a quarter of a pint of the compound Decoction of Barley or Marshmallow Root, with Gum Arabic.

Take of prepared Calomel, six grains;
Cypress Turpentine, [illegible];
Rhubarb Powder, six grains;
Extract of Hemlock, half a drachm;

Mix well together with a sufficient quantity of syrup, and divide into thirteen pills.

He may continue to use the Solution [illegible] three times a day

may be taken from a vein in the arm.

To "Veronica" the Editors return their thanks for [illegible] them of their promise. The information shall be given [illegible] next number.

"Y. Z." and his wife, of Hazel, are advised to take the following powders, twice a day, in a quarter of a pint [illegible] decoction of their families' rest:

Take of carbonate of magnesia, half an ounce;
Heart's wing-feathery, in powder, six drachms;
Columbo root, ditto, one drachm.

Mix well together, and divide into 12 papers.—They should avoid acids and fermented liquors. The former should [illegible] his "favourite indulgence of smoking."

"Miserimus" acted wisely by declining to take the [illegible] lating medicine. Electricity or any other stimulant [illegible] likely to increase his complaints than otherwise. [illegible] him to take four grains of the blue pill every other night [illegible] week, when, if he will acquaint them with his address [illegible] by which they may address a letter to him, either at [illegible] office or elsewhere, they will write to him fully on the [illegible] his affliction.

By the request of "a Subscriber," the Editors have [illegible] the advertised Diuretic Pills for Stone and Gravel, [illegible] composition of which they had to be sage, rosemary, [illegible] of juniper.

The following questions the Editors received from [illegible] correspondents:—

1. By what topical remedy are superfluous hairs [illegible] finally eradicated? (by Clericus.)

2. What are the causes of cramp in the lower extremities?

TO CORRESPONDENTS—*continued.*

A continuation of the Articles on Mad Houses, Medical Excursion, and many other communications, are intended for the next number.

The Editors will be much obliged to "An Old Sutcorther" to send them the particulars of the modes of punishing young ladies at certain boarding schools, to the great injury of their health, for their next number. They will also thank their "Friend," at Huntingdon, for a spirited letter on the dangerous topic to which he alludes in his last.

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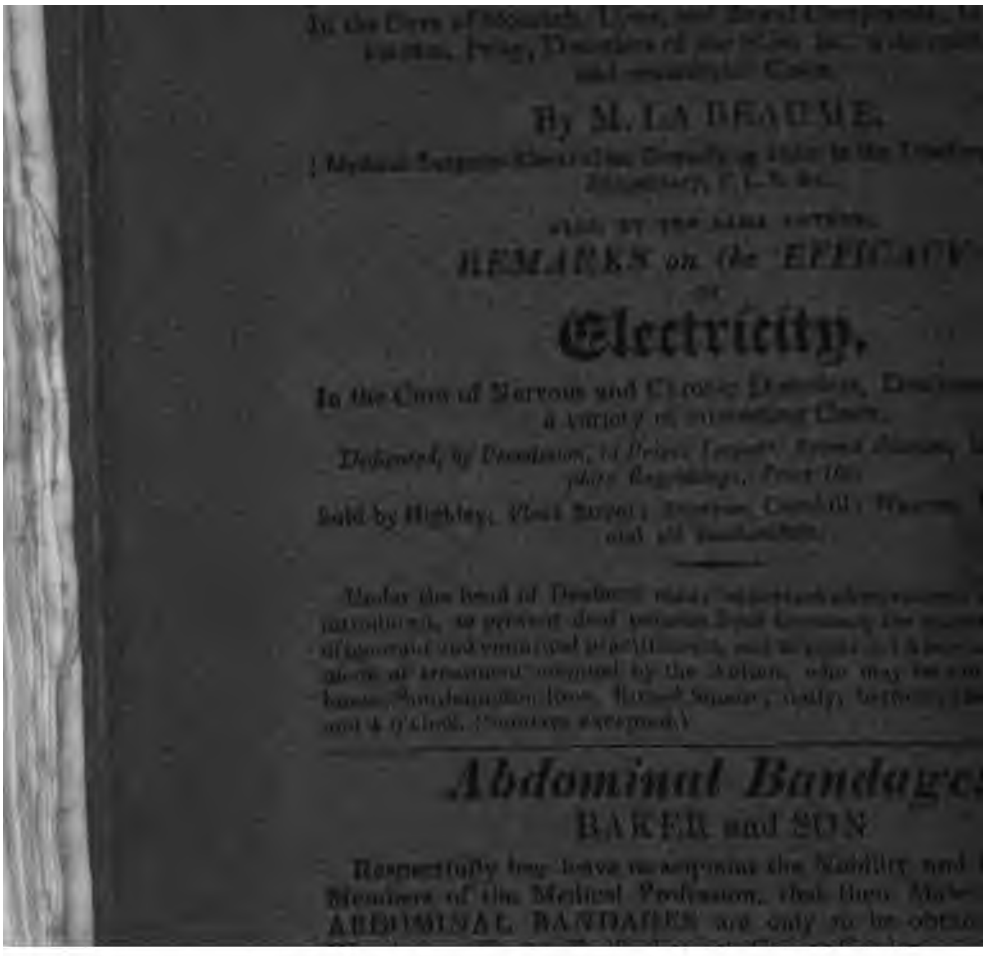

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ALSO, BY THE SAME AUTHOR,

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In the Cure of Nervous and Chronic Diseases, [illegible]

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No. 55, To July 1st, 1820.

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THE MONTHLY
Gazette of Health,

OR,

Popular Medical Dietetic,

AND

PHILOSOPHICAL JOURNAL.

EDITED BY

DR. RICHARD REECE,

Of London,

MEMBER OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS, AUTHOR OF THE "DICTIONARY OF POPULAR MEDICINE," "MEDICAL GUIDE," &c. &c. &c.

And by several eminent Physicians on America, the East Indies, and on the Continent of Europe.

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TO CORRESPONDENTS—*continued.*

Communications on the means of removing the cause of habitual costiveness—a cure for sight—the Brentford Dispensary, &c. &c. were not received in time to appear in the present Number.

The Editors return their thanks to "Mr. Walker," of Oxford, for his valuable observations on the state of medicine—to "Mrs. Jackson," for a copy of Mr. Cook's Treatise on Scald Head—"J. S." for a box of Mr. Simmonds's pills—"James Arnold," for ditto of Towers's tonic pills, which will afford much interesting matter for their next Number.

*** All Letters to be addressed to "The Editors of the Monthly Gazette of Health, 170, Piccadilly."

Medical Cases.

Mr. PAYNE,

Pneumatic Chemist, No. 136, *New Bond Street*, between 135 and 137, (there being two numbers 136,)

Begs leave to state, that DECLAMATIONS of the LUNGS, COUGHS, RECENT COLDS, TENDER PITUITOUS, ASTHMAS, SPITTING of BLOOD, NIGHT PERSPIRATIONS, ST. ANTHONY'S FIRE, are most effectually treated by the GASES.

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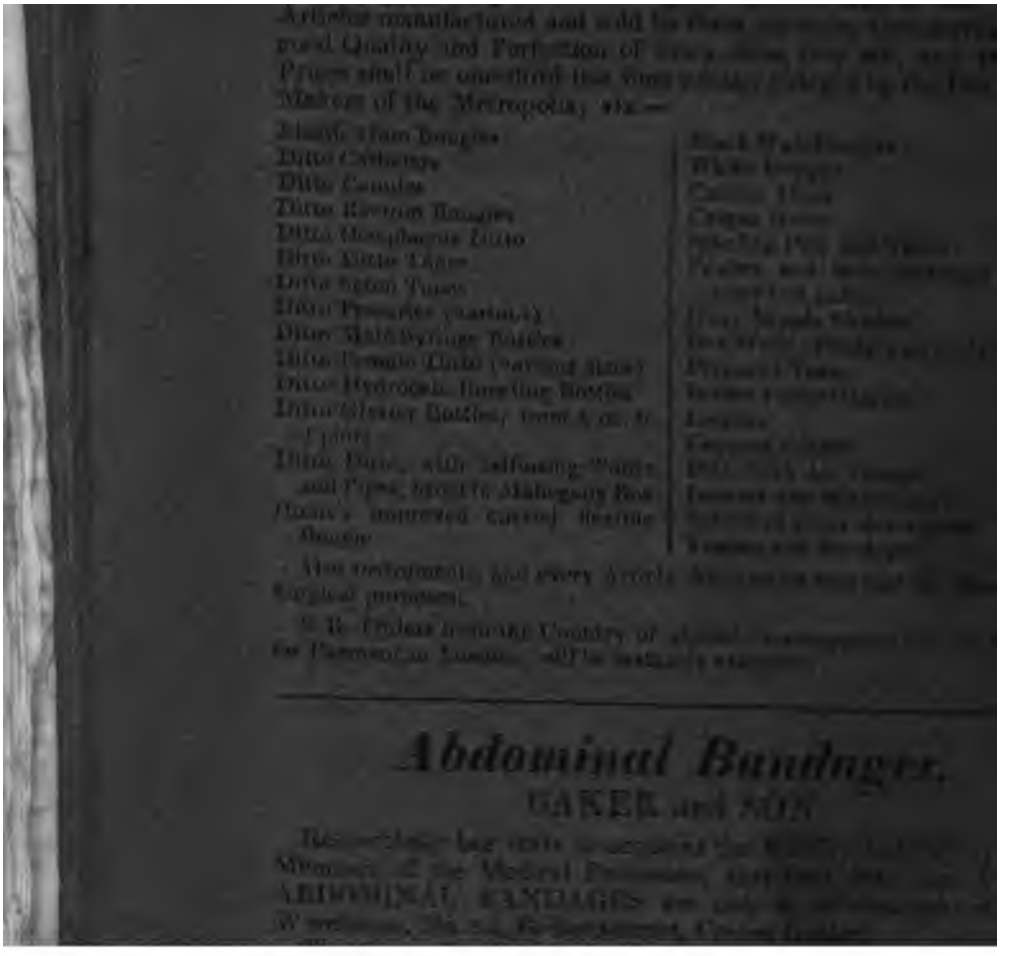

Abdominal Bandages.

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. 56, *To August 1st*, 1820,

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THE MONTHLY

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—

Popular Medical, Dietetic,

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ly several eminent Physicians in America, the West Indies, and in the Continent of Europe.

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TO CORRESPONDENTS

The Editors of the "Constant Reader" of Kensington, three grains of the Blue Pill every night for a week, and then of the Alkaline Tincture of Pumitory three times a day in a of water, and to keep the bowels in a regular state by taking small one or two tea spoonsful of the true Cheltenham Salts is eminently indigestion.

The Queries of a Correspondent at Wellington, the will answer by post.

The "report" which has reached the ears of a Friend in the office of Health in Southwark, is false. With respect to Dr. borough, they can only repeat what they stated in their last that his life, as a physician, is too large of interest to the readers of this work. The Editors may advise him when they to the list of eminent physicians, commencing with Dr. Gardner Dr. Solomon.

"J. Thompson" is advised to take a wine glassful of the of Peach Leaves two or three times a day. If this remedy succeed in removing the complaint, the Editors advise him to them with a call.

"S. T." of Liverpool, will find explicit directions for the the Carbonate of Soda, and the Tartaric Acid, posted on each sold at the Medical Hall, 170, Piccadilly. They should be take there directed, in a state of effervescence. The salver powders be necessary.

"Kensgam" may expect to receive the information he solicits post, in a few days.

"Tower's Tonic Pills" are analysed for the next number, request of Clericus.

Surgeon Walker's valuable communication was not received time to appear in the present number.

"D. R." of Dublin, should obviate costiveness by taking two three table spoonsful of the following mixture every morning:

Take of Infusion of Roses, 6 ounces.
Sulphate of Magnesia, 6 drachms.
Compound Tincture of Cardamoms, of each a drachm.

A wine glass full of the decoction of Iceland liverwort may be taken twice a-day, with a few drops of laudanum in case spasms should return; he should adopt a nourishing diet, as raw meat, soup, Scotch broth, and avoid sweetmeats.

The requests of "A Friend," "A sincere Subscriber," "Veronica," "An Enemy to Quackery," "Unknown," shall be attended to in early Number.

The favours of "Z." "M. La Dominie," are arranged for the next Number.

If "J. W. C." will favour the Editors with a call, they will happy to give him their advice.

The "Gloucester Friend" will find, on referring to our Vol. for last, that the Editors have already recommended sulphur as a remedy for cramp.

TO CORRESPONDENTS—*continued.*

The Editors return their thanks to "Amicus Veritas" for his very kind offer. They have purchased all the nostrums prepared by *Surgeon* Rymer, for the purpose of giving an analysis of them in their next Number. They assure their friend, that they feel much disappointed by the delay of the law proceedings the Surgeon has adopted. On the part of the Editors, nothing has been left undone, to keep up the courage of the plaintiff, and to bring the business into court.

The Editors advise Mrs. F. of York, to follow the advice they have given in their *Supplement* on Female Complaints, under the head of "*fluor albus.*"

The letter of "A. B." was not received till the 29th of July; the information shall be sent by post.

☞ Communications to be addressed to Dr. REECE, Bolton-Row.

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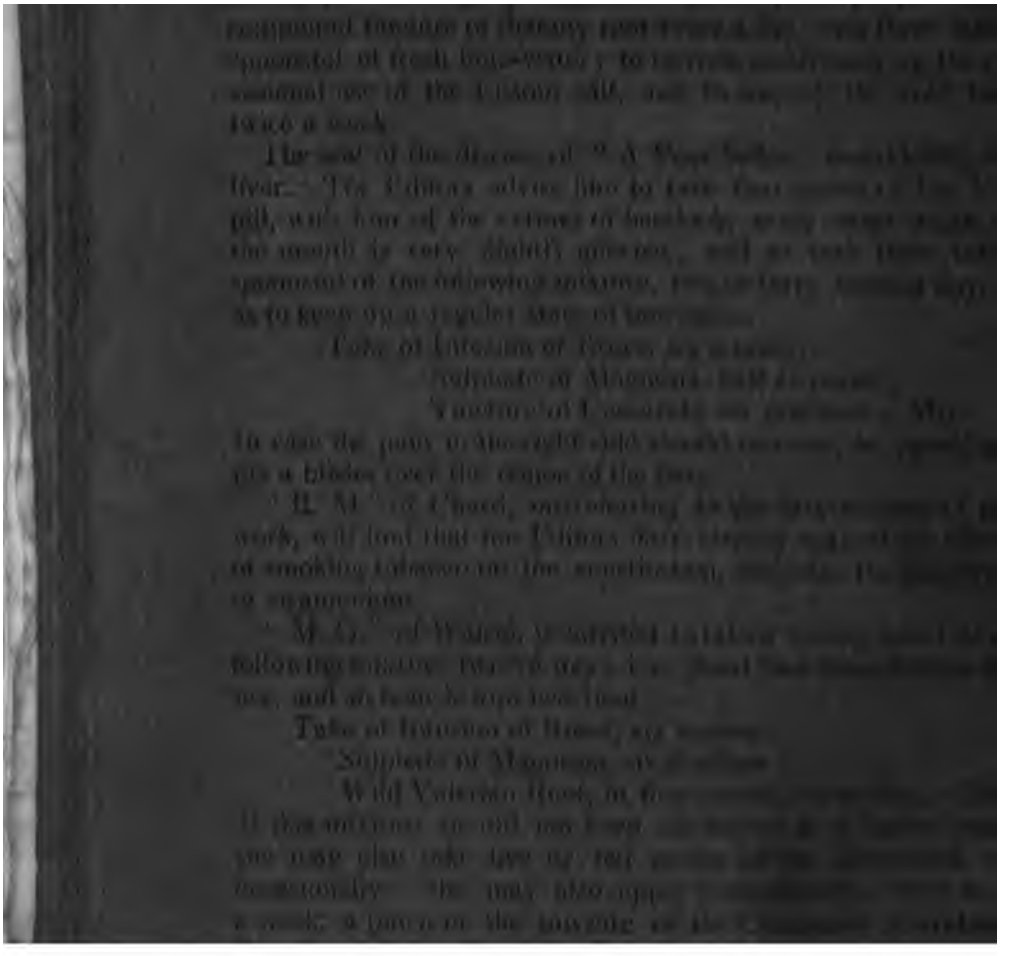

TO CORRESPONDENTS—*continued.*

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Compound ditto of Rhatany, of each, one ounce;
Infusion of Roses, twelve ounces.—Mix.

In case of costiveness, half an ounce of the sulphate of magnesia may be added to this mixture.

The Editors acquaint "N. W." that the first account of the supposed anti-hydrophobic properties of the *Scutellaria Galerif.* Linn. that was published in this country, appeared in this work.

The information solicited by "S. O." of Liverpool; "A. B." of Bristol; "W. S." of Leamington; with several original communications from Philadelphia, Paris, and Petersburg, will be given in an early Number.

*** All Letters to be addressed to "The Editors of the Monthly Gazette of Health, 172, Piccadilly."

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17 and being furnished with the [illegible]
relief the Faculty in Town and Country [illegible]
to all themselves that no attempts were [illegible]
ness in the construction of TRUSSES for the [illegible]
HERNIA, and to caution the Public against the [illegible]
recommend Rupture-wearing Gentry, who have [illegible]
deceived the Public, notwithstanding which [illegible]
to make the opinion of respectable [illegible]
to be the object of such proceedings.

The Instruments are light, elegant, and ideal [illegible]
ease, are adapted for male or female [illegible]
and sizes, requiring no under strap or [illegible]

N. B. Persons residing in the country [illegible]
of the inside across the hips, may depend upon having [illegible]
Truss.

Abdominal Bandages.

BAKER and SON

Respectfully [illegible]
Shirts of the [illegible]

58. To October 1st, 1820,

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THE MONTHLY
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OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS, AUTHOR OF THE "ANTIDOTARY OF PUBLIC HEALTH," "MEDICAL GUIDE," &c. &c.

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TO CORRESPONDENTS—*continued.*

The Editors expect to receive the information collected by a subscriber respecting the seeds of Colchicum, and if he will favour them with his address, they will forward it by post.

B. H. Esq. may expect to hear from the Editors in the course of a week, with a Catalogue. If he stands in need of the information sooner, the Editors will send it on hearing from him to that effect.

The Editors will answer the Letters of T. W. of Manchester, and A — of Leeds, by post, on the 2d of the ensuing month.

R. C. of Coventry, P. P. of Worcester, and L. T. S. of York, are referred to the "Supplement of the Gazette of Health," for the modes of treating their complaints. If they should require any further information, the Editors will be happy to give it them.

G. G. of Dublin, is advised to consult the "Appendix to the Gazette," in which he will find the Editors have fully noticed his complaint.

W. B. of Bristol, is recommended to take the following pills. The complaint is evidently asthma.

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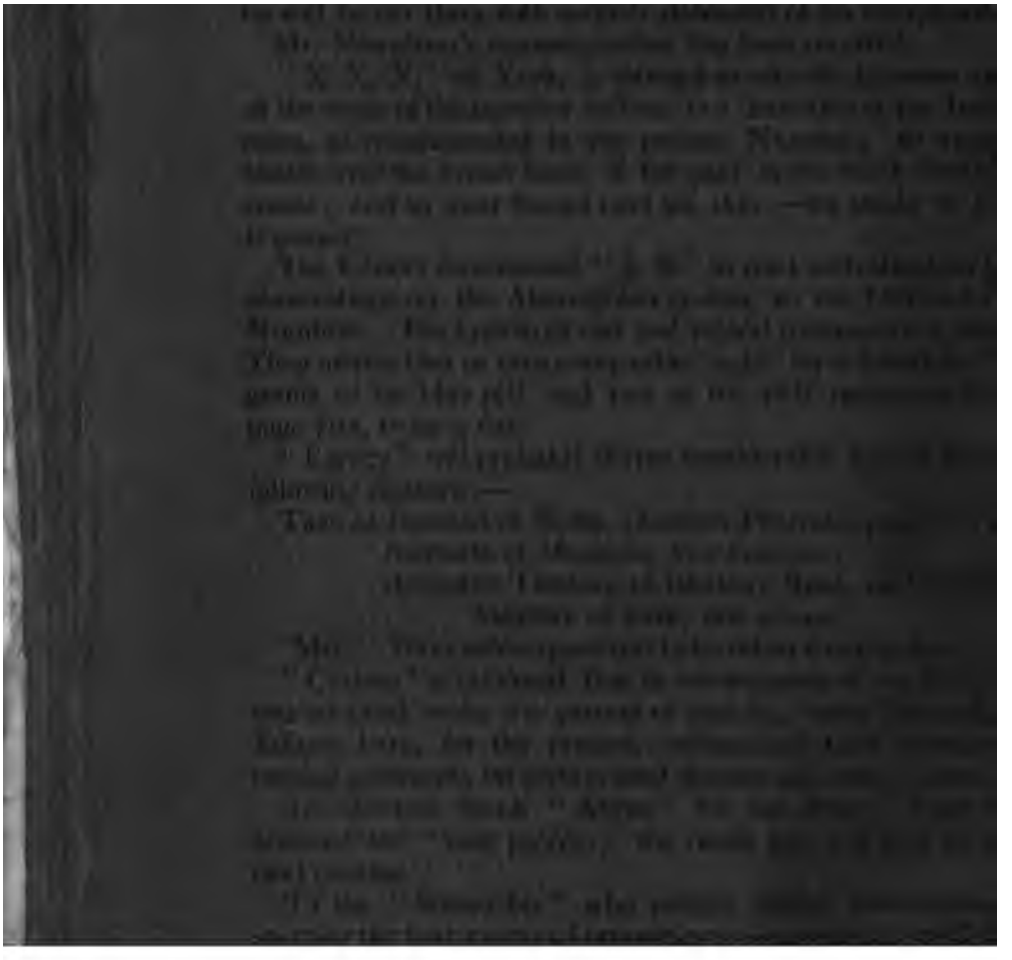

TO CORRESPONDENTS—*continued.*

Remarks on "Mr. Walker's" communications;—on the *pitiful* conduct of a Brighton Apothecary, and his extravagant charges;—on lime water as a remedy for rickets,—Biographical Sketch of *Doctors* Jeaffreson, Johnson, and Early;—a remedy for nausea attendant on pregnancy; will probably appear in the next Number.

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Mr. PAYNE,

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THE MONTHLY
Gazette of Health,

OR,

Popular Medical, Dietetic,

AND

PHILOSOPHICAL JOURNAL.

EDITED BY

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MEMBER OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS, AUTHOR OF THE "DICTIONARY OF POPULAR MEDICINE," "MEDICAL GUIDE," &c. &c. &c.

And by several eminent Physicians in America, the East Indies, and on the Continent of Europe.

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"A Friend of Blackberry Corner," "Veronica,"—"J
"W. L." of Manchester,—"R. S." of Cockfosters, f
valuable communications. The promised informa
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complaints in the Appendix satisfactory, the Editors re
will apply to them for further instructions.

"J. B." will find an account of the Dorset Folk in a
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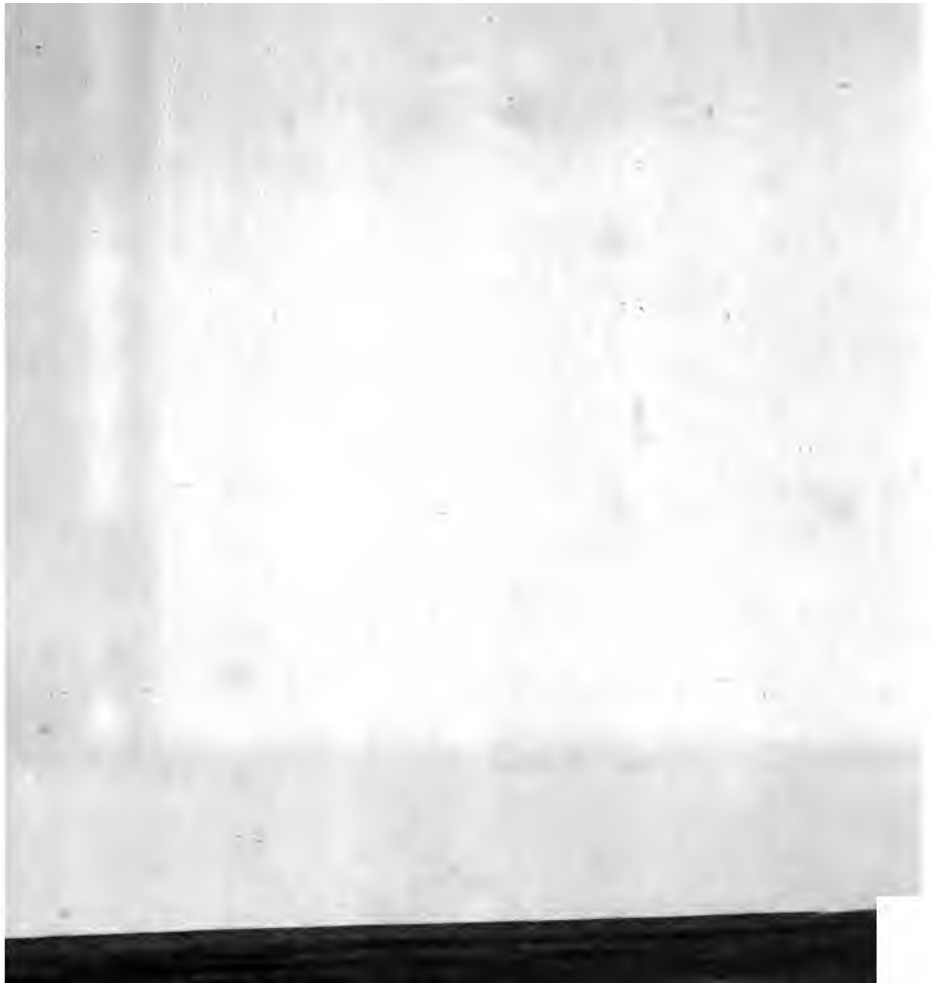
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